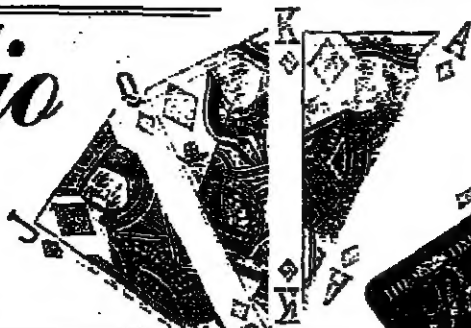


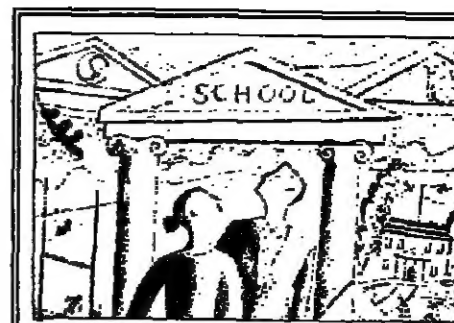
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Business News Page 20



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Special supplement

Smith hit by eve-of-conference walkout

Gould quits over Labour EC policy

PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY SPLIT

Howard widens rift on Europe

By Sheila Gunn and Nicholas Wood

JOHN Major's troubles deepened yesterday when two of his Cabinet ministers clashed openly over the prospect of Britain being relegated to the slow lane of a two-speed Europe.

Michael Howard, environment secretary, delighted Euro-sceptics by insisting Britain should put its national interests first and appeared unconcerned at the threat of France, Germany and the Benelux countries forging ahead in a two-speed Europe. But John Gummer, the agriculture minister, said that Britain needed to be a "little less selfish" and to look at the whole European picture.

In a further indication of Cabinet troubles over Europe, Mr Howard also fell out with Tristan Garel-Jones, the minister for Europe, over the Maastricht treaty. The environment secretary argued that the treaty needed to be made "more acceptable" to the British people while Mr Garel-Jones insisted renegotiation was not on the table and failure to ratify would be a humiliating setback for Britain.

Meanwhile, Norman Lamont will attempt to cool the dispute on the future of the European exchange rate mechanism today by appealing to other European finance ministers to be more open-minded about debating its reform.

Following comments from continental politicians over the weekend in support of the present system, the chancellor is expected to use the regular Ecofin meeting in Brussels to emphasise the weaknesses shown up by the economic turmoil in recent weeks.

Mr Lamont, who will chair the meeting, will seek to persuade the other ministers to prepare positive ideas for reforming the ERM in time for the emergency conference in Birmingham on October 16.

Two polls among Conservative backbench MPs continued on page 16, col 8

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BRYAN Gould resigned from the shadow cabinet yesterday declaring that he could no longer support the Labour leadership's economic and European policies.

His departure means that he is certain to become the standard-bearer for about 60 Labour rebels who oppose the party's support for the Maastricht treaty.

Mr Gould, who was shadow heritage secretary, went out in a blaze of publicity, announcing his decision at a fringe meeting on the eve of the party conference and marring Labour's efforts to present itself as more united on Europe than the Tories.

Many friends urged him to stay and argue his case within the shadow cabinet, but he dismissed it as a "gag and straitjacket which suppresses real debate". He said that Labour had yet to recognise the "futility and damaging consequences of putting defence of the exchange rate at the heart of economic policy".

He added: "I must stand up for what I think is right, and I was not prepared to get drawn into and therefore compromised by a system of collective responsibility." There was a danger that politicians of all parties would be led into a conspiracy that would deny the British people a say about their future.

Last night union leaders and MPs attacked him for diverting public attention from the government's turmoil over Europe. Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, accused him of losing the striking Tory government a lifetime and said: "I'm not surprised that he is going, but I am surprised that he has given so little thought to party unity that he has chosen the eve of the conference to do it."

Among the Labour leadership, the timing of his resignation provoked irritation in that it overshadowed preparations for what the party expects to be a successful conference exploiting government disarray.

Mr Gould regretted the distraction but said that there was "never a right moment". He disclosed that he had deliberately not resigned after last Wednesday's national executive and shadow cabinet meetings so as not to blunt John Smith's offensive against

Labour lost the election because it failed to recognise the aspirations of the sort of people who watch television programmes such as *Only Fools and Horses* or read the novels of Frederick Forsyth and Jilly Cooper, according to a Fabian Society report on what went wrong in April. Peter Riddell. Page 12

the government the following day.

Of the handful of shadow cabinet rebels, Mr Gould, defeated by Mr Smith in the leadership contest 10 weeks ago, had always seemed the most likely to go. Last night there was relief in the leadership camp that such an obvious dissenter had gone. "The split stories will be a little harder to write now," one leadership source said.

Mr Smith said: "Bryan Gould expressed a view which is not that of the shadow cabinet and he has clearly accepted that collective responsibility applies. The rules of collective responsibility are therefore reaffirmed."

Mr Gould went to the fringe meeting after attending Labour's national executive, where he twice voted against Mr Smith during yesterday's pre-conference session, over a referendum on Maastricht and then over defence spending. As he left the Imperial Hotel, Mr Gould posted his resignation letter to Mr Smith in the internal mail box.

In it he said that he intended to set out his strongly held views on the economy and the future of Europe. "I acknowledge that I cannot do this without breaching the rules of collective responsibility by which members of the shadow cabinet are bound. I am accordingly and with deep regret obliged to resign from the shadow cabinet."

Mr Gould then went to the Baronial Hall, at the Winter Gardens, to prepare for his speech to the Common Market Safeguards Committee. There he told close confidants, including Peter Shore, the former cabinet minister whom he once served as a PPS, of his decision.

As he waited to speak, a member of Mr Smith's staff handed Mr Gould his reply.

In it Mr Smith said that after the clear decision taken by the shadow cabinet on Europe he recognised that Mr Gould could not advance a contrary view and remain a member of it. "I regret but respect your decision," he said.

Mr Gould said that he had no illusions about how rapidly he would be "disowned and marginalised" for his decision to speak out. Tonight he risks losing his place on the national executive in the annual elections.

Studies of constituency party ballot results suggest that Neil Kinnock will be elected to the NEC, and that Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, will win a seat for the first time. Labour insiders suggest that both Mr Gould and the veteran leftwinger Tony Benn could be ousted, and that Tony Blair, shadow home secretary, could fall in his first attempt to be chosen.

The conference will open this morning with an economic debate in which Mr Brown plans to highlight government divisions over Europe. He is to set out Labour's recovery package in greater detail.

This afternoon the conference will debate the party's new European policy and is expected easily to defeat an emergency motion calling for a referendum on the Maastricht treaty.

At the executive meeting yesterday, only Mr Gould, Dennis Skinner and Tony Benn voted for a referendum, but another shadow cabinet member, David Blunkett, abstained. Mr Smith suffered a more serious revolt on defence spending. Mr Gould was one of 10 executive members who voted against the leadership in favour of a motion calling for Britain's defence spending to be reduced to that of the European average.

Mr Gould had sat on his decision to resign for four days. "I felt my decision had become inevitable as from last Wednesday when my request that we should not close the door on a referendum was not granted," he said. "I refrained from making my decision clear at that point because I did not want to cut across the very important Commons debate the next day, and John Smith took full and very effective advantage of that opportunity."

Richest woman in Britain is Greek shipping heiress

By Joe Joseph

EVEN a girl's diamonds pale against the long-term charms of a rich relative, according to a new list of the 250 richest women in Britain, which shows that while some people's money is inherited, far more is still inherited. Of the top 50 names on the list, 27 inherited their money. Nine more owe their wealth to widowhood, six married it and one became rich through divorce. Only five women made their own money in business.

One, Sheena Easton, made it as an entertainer. Barbara Cartland became the 34th richest by writing romances that are presumably devoured by heiresses with time to kill between lunch and dinner. Top of the list, published today in *BusinessAge* magazine, is Christine Goulandris, 44, who inherited half her father's shipping fortune at the age of five. Her wealth is now put at £290 million, which buys plenty of diamonds, even with a devalued pound. The family is Greek in origin, but she is British and has lived here all her life. She is even richer than her husband, Tony O'Reilly, the millionaire head of the Heinz



Goulandris: joined the seriously rich at age of 5

food empire. Her official occupation is racehorse owner.

The Queen, another heiress and racehorse owner, manages only tenth place, with a fortune of £100 million, excluding state-owned assets. Trade first rears its uncouth head in thirteenth place, through Laxmi Shrivastava's £94 million. She took over the reins of her husband's business after he died and left her an empire ranging from hotels and food canning to Swiss banking and French vineyards. Britain's noisiest businesswoman, Anita Roddick, ranks 32nd, with the £45



Easton: 36th on the list by her own endeavours

million she has made out of Body Shop.

Kevin Cahill, who compiled the league table, says: "Women have a long way to go in terms of obtaining their fair share of the modern industrial and commercial wealth of Britain by actually creating it." For those women who have not inherited any money, are not and never have been married to tycoons, and who would not recognise a profitable food canning factory from a cucumber-and-guano hair gel, the world of



Unsettled: Bryan Gould in reflective mood after announcing his resignation

Zulu march erupts after ANC ambush

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN KWAMASHU

VIOLENCE broke out yesterday when more than 50,000 Zulus, defiantly brandishing spears and sticks, marched through this teeming township outside Durban, a stronghold of the African National Congress.

They had heard King Goodwill Zwelithini and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, KwaZulu's first minister, denounce the deal reached on Saturday between President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, to put constitutional negotiations back on track.

Chief Buthelezi declared that he was withdrawing both the KwaZulu homeland government and the two-million-strong Inkatha Freedom Party from talks with the government as a direct result of the de Klerk-Mandela summit and accused Mr Mandela of "anti-Zulu racism".

Hundreds of South African and KwaZulu police mounted an unprecedented joint operation to keep the Zulus and ANC supporters apart. Nevertheless, as the crowd left the Princess Magogo soccer stadium, bands of ANC supporters were waiting in ambush.

At least one man was killed and five were wounded when gunmen on a train speeding through the township opened fire at random on the crowds alongside the track. Within seconds hundreds of marchers, heading back to a nearby hostel, raced across the track to attack the home of a suspected ANC supporter.

A police helicopter swooped as KwaZulu and South African police rapidly encircled the marchers and forced them back to the road with tear gas. Chief Buthelezi told his supporters: "I warn against the danger of South Africa indulging in what would amount to 'ethnic cleansing' which is taking place in Yugoslavia."

ANC denounced, page 11

ON OTHER PAGES

Error costs BBC £50m

Spending on BBC television programmes next autumn may have to be cut back because an accounting mix-up allowed programme makers to overspend by about £50 million this year, nearly 8 per cent of the network's budget. The BBC has just cut 1,250 jobs in an effort to economise. Page 16

Judging judges

Lazy or rude judges should face disciplinary action, according to the chairman of the Bar Council, Lord Gareth Williams of Mostyn told the Bar conference that an inspectors' report should monitor the performance of judges, and also called for them to retire earlier. Page 4

Fraud check

The Bank of England has called in the Serious Fraud Office to check after its own investigations failed to find any truth in allegations that the Bank of Credit and Commerce International bribed officials at the Bank, its British regulator. Page 17

Gascoigne hurt

Paul Gascoigne's first league match for the Italian club, Lazio, was cut short in Rome yesterday when he injured his right knee. Ruptured ligaments in the same knee had kept him out of action for the previous 16 months. Lazio said the latest injury was not serious. Page 30

163 die in Nigeria air crash

By Our Foreign Staff

A NIGERIAN Air Force C-130 Hercules transport plane crashed shortly after take-off from Lagos and all 163 people on board were killed, government officials said last night.

Most of the dead were believed to be military officers of the rank of major and above, attending the Nigerian Command and Staff College in northern Kaduna State. Hundreds of friends and relatives of the passengers gathered at the crash site yesterday, but there were no reports of survivors in Nigeria's worst military air crash.

Officials said the American-designed aircraft burst into flames and crashed into a swampy area about three minutes after leaving Lagos for Kaduna, about 500 miles to the northeast. They did not say where it crashed.

President Babangida has cancelled all engagements for the coming week, including attending Nigeria's October 1 independence celebrations. Nigeria's defence minister was visiting the site and was expected to give a full report later last night.

The Nigerian Air Force had two squadrons with a total of nine C-130s, according to the authoritative *Military Balance*, published in London. The crashed aircraft was believed to be one of the few still operational.

The Lockheed Hercules is the most widely used military transport in the Western world and has been in service with the RAF for 25 years. It has an exemplary safety record and a reputation for toughness earned during the Vietnam war.

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Dissident backbenchers threaten prime minister's authority

Major faces sternest leadership test yet as Euro rebellion grows

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major faces the most crucial two weeks of his leadership as he tries to contain the open warfare within the Conservative party over Britain's future in Europe.

Senior Tory figures made clear over the weekend that the prime minister needs to reassert his authority as ministers, as well as backbench MPs, began to fall out publicly over the fate of the Maastricht treaty and whether Britain should rejoin the European exchange-rate mechanism.

He will discuss the increasingly unloved treaty with Poul Schlüter, the Danish prime minister, in London on Wednesday and he is also planning to fly to Paris this week for wide-ranging talks with France's President Mitterrand. But he must also look

ahead to next week's Conservative party conference, which will be dominated by disputes on the government's future economic and European policies.

Two opinion polls of the Tory backbenchers showed growing scepticism about Europe and a wide split on whether to ditch the treaty Bill or revive it with or without amendments. Most disturbing for the prime minister were conflicting comments on the Bill from Michael Howard, the environment secretary and a Euro-sceptic, and Tristan Garel-Jones, the minister for Europe.

Mr Garel-Jones said it would be an "humiliation" and a setback for Britain if parliament failed to ratify the treaty and talked of "perverse and reckless Europhobes". But Mr Howard said he did not want the Bill brought back to the Commons until it had been made "more acceptable" to people. This would be done by a clear statement that decisions in the European Community would be left to member states and national parliaments, he said.

Mr Howard acknowledged there were "differences" of emphasis within the Tory party over Europe but denied it was split into two camps.

Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the Tory 1922 backbench committee, urged ministers to use next week's party conference in Brighton to spell out their position after the "traumatic" events of the pound's withdrawal from the ERM. Indicating the scale of unrest within the party both in and out of parliament, he said there were some anxious Tories and a lot of people were delighted Britain had left the ERM.

Sir Marcus, who acts as the voice of the Tory backbenchers, said: "I, for one, want ministers to come out fighting and the party conference, I believe, is going to be a very good platform indeed."

He said Mr Major would survive but conceded there were divisions within the party over Europe. "I believe that there will be a compromise between these positions. We cannot go on and we won't go on, we are not going to bring our party down over this issue."

A poll by NOP for *On the Record*, the BBC programme transmitted yesterday, questioned 112 of the 251 Tory backbench MPs, found that 43 wanted the government to abandon the Maastricht Bill and 38 wanted to press ahead. Twenty-three said it depended on whether changes were made and eight did not know.

Of the 43 who wanted the Bill abandoned, 32 said they were prepared to vote against

it, three would abstain, two would vote for it in spite of their reservations and six had not made up their minds. But 79 of the MPs questioned were against a referendum and only 27 in favour.

Another survey, of 89 Conservative MPs for *The Sunday Telegraph* after the emergency Commons debate reported that 21 per cent wanted Mr Major to bring back the original treaty legislation, 39 per cent thought a new treaty should be negotiated, 26 per cent wanted to halt the treaty, and 14 per cent were don't knows.

Even more startling was the finding that 43 per cent of those questioned never wanted Britain to rejoin the ERM and nine per cent supported re-entry by the end of the year. Although neither poll covered more than half of the backbenchers, their similar findings will add to the Tory whips' worries about the spread of Euro-scepticism.

The treaty still has its fans at Westminster, but most Conservative MPs do not believe the Bill could not be pushed through parliament with relying on sizeable support from the Labour and Liberal Democrat benches.

Speaking during *On the Record* Michael Colvin, Conservative MP for Romney and Watcombe, said: "If the Bill was to come back it would be a passage through parliament as it is, but there would be an awful lot of blood on the carpet."

James Pawsey, a member of the 1992 committee executive, said events leading up to Britain withdrawing from the ERM undermined confidence in the Europe which had been sold to MPs. He could not see himself supporting the treaty with any element of monetary union left in it.

Graham Riddick, parliamentary private secretary to the John MacGregor, the transport secretary, also wanted the treaty changed. Just as changes were needed for Denmark, changes could also be made for Britain.

Sir Ivan Lawrence, Conservative MP for Buxton, who signed last week's Commons motion urging no return to the ERM, said on *The World This Week*, the BBC Radio 4 programme, that in spite of rather gung-ho comments from Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand about pressing ahead with ratification, he wanted another look at the Bill.

Sir Peter Hordern, chairman of the Tory backbench European affairs committee, said that any renegotiation could leave Britain in a worse position.

Tory split, page 1



Howard: defended government record against master of the inquisitorial interview

Tough brief for party lawyer

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major woke up yesterday morning knowing he needed a good lawyer. The front pages were full of the widening cabinet rift over Europe and the rebels were said to be plotting to ambush the prime minister at next week's party conference in Brighton. David Mellor, Mr Major's favourite QC in the election campaign, had gone. It was time to send for Michael Howard.

Mr Howard's brief was formidable. The government's economic and foreign policies had been blown away by the speculative hurricane of black Wednesday, while the cabinet's efforts to find a convincing alternative had met with derision. Even worse, the prosecuting counsel would be Brian Walden, an acknowledged master of the inquisitorial interview.

Not that Mr Howard, the environment secretary, is any stranger to defending a difficult case. Two years after entering the Commons at the relatively advanced age of 42, as a junior minister at the

HOWARD PROFILE

trade and industry department he was the government's advocate in the struggle to limit the political fallout from the insider dealing and Guinness scandals. He piloted the complex and contentious financial services bill, setting up a system of self-regulation in the City, through the Commons.

Bigger challenges lay ahead. After the 1987 election he was appointed local government minister, putting both the poll tax and water privatisation on the statute book.

In early 1990 he replaced Sir Norman Fowler at the employment department, just as the recession began to bite. He also found himself one of the central players on the European stage as Britain's EC partners tried to find a back door way of imposing the social charter vetoed by Margaret Thatcher.

In the election campaign Mr Howard was in the vanguard of the Conservative efforts to undermine public

trust in Labour. A softly spoken but steely barrister, he played skilfully on fears that for all the reforms of the Kinnock years, the union barons still pulled Labour's strings.

He was made environment secretary immediately after the election and was put in charge of unpicking the last threads of the policy he once so vehemently defended. The council tax comes in next year and it is Mr Howard's job to ensure that it does not prove a "poll tax on wheels".

After fighting two seats in his twenties, Mr Howard spent the next decade building up a lucrative legal practice, taking silk in 1982. A 1960s fashion model. Yesterday, as Mr Walden alternately bullied and cajoled in his attempts to expose the "con" of cabinet unity, Mr Howard kept his Euro-sceptic instincts in check. Only at the end did the mask slip. By indicating that he was untouchable by the prospect of a two-tier Europe, with Britain enjoying the freedom of the second rank, he kept the internal debate on the boil.

GOULD PROFILE

Restless, isolated intellectual who lost trust and support of his party

By PETER RIDDELL

RESIGNATIONS come in two categories: those forced on a minister or shadow spokesman over a personal incident, and those arising from a dispute over policy. While David Mellor's resignation last Thursday as national heritage secretary was in the first category, Bryan Gould's resignation yesterday as his shadow was in the second.

It was much more like the departures of Nigel Lawson and Sir Geoffrey Howe from the Thatcher government in 1989 and 1990. In each case strains built up over time and were aggravated by personal differences before a final breaking point came.

Yesterday was not the first time that Mr Gould had left office over Europe. In February 1977, he was sacked as parliamentary private secretary to Peter Shore, his old friend and fellow critic of the European community, because he voted against proposals to harmonise customs duties with the EC.

Opposition to Britain's membership of the community has been a consistent theme of his career ever since he worked in Brussels as a British diplomat in the 1967-68 period and became disillusioned with the workings of the community. That has been allied to his criticism of monetarism or a strong pound

policy.

During his first period in parliament as a backbench MP in the late 1970s, Mr Gould regularly caused waves by his criticism of British policy towards the EC, and by urging a further fall in the pound even during the sterling crisis of 1976. After losing Southampton Test in May 1979, he returned to the Commons in June 1983 as the MP for Dagenham.

Mr Gould has never been happy with Labour's embrace of the EC over the past five years and with John Smith's enthusiasm for the exchange rate mechanism, both as shadow chancellor and party leader. Mr Gould kept his dissent down to acceptable levels until recent months when the French referendum on Maastricht and sterling's withdrawal

from the ERM reopened the whole issue.

But, as with most resignations, Mr Gould's departure was not just a dispute over policy. Mr Gould has been increasingly isolated from his shadow cabinet colleagues.

After his prominent role in the 1987 election campaign as the party's campaigns coordinator, he became more distant from Neil Kinnock. Muttings also developed among fellow shadow cabinet members about his judgment, particularly over his handling of Labour's alternative to the poll tax. He earned the damning tag of being regarded as "unsound".

Significantly, he had minimal support from senior Labour figures for his campaign this summer for the leadership and deputy leadership. His

campaign turned into an embarrassing rout as he was beaten by more than nine-to-one by Mr Smith and was squeezed into third place for the deputy leadership. Then he was given the minor portfolio of national heritage after being re-elected to the Shadow Cabinet in July. He seemed more restless.

Mr Gould has always been something of an outsider at Westminster, partly because of his upbringing in New Zealand until he came to England in his early 20s — and partly because of his cleverness, which he does not always hide. A Balliol graduate with a first class law degree, he was top of the Foreign Office entrance exams and then a highly regarded Oxford don before he entered the Commons. He displays similarities to Richard Crossman, an equally clever, though less charming and affable, Labour intellectual of an earlier generation.

Like Crossman, Mr Gould has become a maverick. He has now put himself at the head of those outside the hard-left who oppose the leadership line on Europe. But, as the overwhelming votes on the party's national executive committee yesterday on a Maastricht referendum showed, Mr Smith has the majority on his side. Mr Gould's resignation looks more like a gesture of frustration than a serious threat to the leadership.

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'With deep regret ...'

IN HIS resignation letter to the Labour leader, Mr Gould wrote: "I shall later this afternoon be speaking at a fringe meeting at which I shall set out my strongly held views on the economy and the future of Europe."

"I acknowledge that I cannot do this without breaching the rules of collective responsibility by which members of the shadow cabinet are bound. I am accordingly and with deep regret obliged to

resign from the shadow cabinet. I should like to thank you for the personal courtesy and comradeship you have always shown me despite our occasional differences over policy."

"I assure you of my warm personal regard and I wish you and the shadow cabinet every success in achieving a Labour general election victory at the earliest possible moment."

Yours sincerely, Bryan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

10m Britons below EC 'decency' wage

Nearly 10 million British workers earn less than the European decency threshold of £207 a week, the Low Pay Unit said yesterday. An analysis of Department of Employment statistics showed the pay gap between the lowest and average earners was the greatest since records began in 1886, said the LPU.

Chris Pond, director of the unit, said: "Caught between the devil of recession and the deep blue sea of government labour market policy, the working poor are increasing in numbers and declining in prosperity." Philip Pearson, a research officer, said the pay gap had widened dramatically in the past decade, making Britain "the sweatshop of Europe". He added: "The lowest paid workers, including hotel porters, kitchen staff and workers in the clothing trade, now earn about £150 a week — that's £100 less a week than the average British earner."

The LPU analysis claimed the poorest tenth of men working in manual jobs earned just 62.3% of the average earnings for this group. This compared with the previous record low of 63.4 per cent in 1991. Excluding overtime, 9.89 million workers — four in 10 of the adult workforce — earned less than the Council of Europe's decency threshold. Jobs dry up, page 5

Ramblers stage protest

Members of the Ramblers' Association yesterday set out to cross the Bayham Abbey estate, near Tunbridge Wells, in Kent, where, they claim, public footpaths have been blocked since 1910 (John Young writes). The action was part of the association's "Forbidden Britain" day of protest, intended to highlight rights of way that have been closed off by landowners or allowed to become impenetrable. Among the targets chosen by the association, which claims a membership of nearly 90,000, was Hadrian's Wall in Cumbria, where ramblers say a farmer insists a nearby footpath was incorrectly designated 50 years ago. Another was Stapleford Woods, near Newark, Nottinghamshire.

The Neil Kinnock Show

Neil Kinnock, who has been suggested as one of Britain's two European Community commissioners in Brussels, is to take over the helm of *The Jimmy Young Show* on BBC Radio 2 for a week from November 2 while Mr Young is on holiday (Melinda Wittstock writes). The former Labour leader, who is seeking to rejoin the party's national executive committee at the party conference in Blackpool this week, has never previously presented a radio programme. His wife Glenys presented *The Jimmy Young Show* in November 1989. Mr Kinnock said: "Jim is a real master of the airwaves, but this is my big opportunity to be tough from the other side of the microphone."

Swan killed on Avon

A campaign to re-establish a permanent swan population on the river at Stratford-upon-Avon has suffered a setback after the female of the town's first breeding pair for several years was found dead, shot in the head by an air gun pellet (Craig Seton writes). Lucy and her mate Fairfax had produced seven cygnets this summer. Her death came as Cyril Bennis, a district councillor and the town's unofficial swan-keeper, unsuccessfully called on the council to ban fishing on the Avon in Stratford to help protect the swans. Mr Bennis, 44, believes Stratford's swan population rapidly declined in the 1960s as a result of pollution and lead poisoning caused by ingesting lead weights abandoned by anglers.

Prisoners smash cells

Sixty inmates at Britain's newest prison smashed television sets, chairs, games equipment and a pool table during a protest at what they believed was a reduction in their leisure time. Trouble broke out at Holme House Prison in Stockton, Cleveland, when young remand prisoners refused to return to their cells. Twenty-six inmates later gave up the protest but others began destroying rooms in their wing. The outburst prompted a similar riot in the next block, where prisoners started breaking up their cells. The prisoners eventually surrendered early yesterday morning. Facilities at the category B prison, which opened in May, include a gym, a five-a-side football hall and games rooms.

Jubilee Line rescue

A formal offer to save London Underground's proposed £1.7 billion Jubilee line extension between Green Park and Stratford via Canary Wharf will be submitted to the government on Wednesday, Ernst & Young, the project administrators, announced yesterday (Michael Dynes writes). The Jubilee extension, widely seen as vital to the government's attempts to regenerate London's Docklands, was shelved in March after the failure of Olympia & York, the Canary Wharf developer, to make an initial £40 million down payment towards its cost. Bankers have apparently now reached agreement on a private-sector contribution towards the cost of the scheme.

Toddler unscathed



Police will make further attempts today to coax a three-year-old girl into giving details of what happened during the 12 hours she was missing at the weekend (Jenny Knight writes). Lauren Cartledge was found safe and well yesterday morning as she toddled past a mobile police station set up where she had vanished the previous evening. Police in Preston, Lancashire, said she had not been assaulted but her clothes showed no signs that she had spent the night out of doors. A police spokesman said: "It is a mystery. She is well and not injured, but although there was some slight rain in the early hours she was not wet." A police woman is to question her gently about her night away from home today.

Chess clash resumes

The chess championship between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky resumes after a week and a half's break with game 12 in Belgrade on Wednesday (Raymond Kene writes). The first half of the match was played in Montenegro. So far Fischer leads by five wins to two with four draws. The victor will be the first man to score ten wins. When the match started at the beginning of September it was unclear whether Fischer, the reclusive American genius, would be able to recapture his old magic after 20 years away from the board. Such fears were dispelled with his brilliant victory in the first game, though he struggled afterwards. From game seven, however, it has been all Fischer.

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Family firms join forces to fight bankruptcy decisions

BY TONY DAVE

FAMILIES facing eviction from their homes after banks recalled loans are joining forces to campaign for a change in the insolvency laws and for better treatment by leading banks.

Gill Hankey, her husband, daughter and 76-year-old mother must leave their hillside home overlooking the River Humber in a fortnight because Lloyds Bank has called in the overdraft on what the family regarded as a successful business.

She has become a leading official of the Bankruptcy Association, which wants the law changed so that people who have fallen into debt through business failure or other misfortune are treated as "honest citizens".

Eddy Weatherill and his wife, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, are fighting to stay in their home on the edge of the Cambridgeshire fens after their bank withdrew an overdraft facility. They are leading members of the Bank Action Group, whose aim is to challenge the "high-handed

attitudes" taken by banks towards business customers. The group says banks have caused much unnecessary misery and hardship.

Both families are undoubtedly victims of the recession but a study of their cases suggests that it was neither government policy nor desperate creditors that brought them down but the hard line taken by their bankers. Both say their businesses could have proved successful.

The Hankeys, whose case will be featured in tonight's *World in Action* programme "Going Bust" on the ITV network, went from nothing when they started their asbestos removal business to a turnover of £1.1 million in three years. They were employing 40 staff on contracts for local authorities and privatised companies when Lloyds Bank put in an independent accountant to report on the company's solvency.

"We had £200,000 worth of blue-chip contracts but the accountant said we could expect to receive only a quarter of

the money," Mrs Hankey said. "We had £200,000 worth of stock but the accountant valued it at only £50,000 and said the company was unable to clear its £141,000 overdraft. The bank gave us four days to find the money and when we failed made us bankrupt."

Receivers were appointed, and within two weeks sold the company for £35,000. The Hankeys were employed until the contracts were finished but were left owing the bank £88,000. As their overdraft had been secured on their home in South Ferraby, the only answer was to sell.

"This has split up the family," Mrs Hankey said. "Our eldest daughter has left home because of the tensions; we must find local authority housing for my mother, who had a granny flat with us, and we shall stay with friends, but the bank doesn't seem to care about people."

Mrs Hankey now works as national officer of the Bankruptcy Association, helping others in financial difficulty and campaigning for a change in the insolvency laws.

"The law is designed to protect powerful and vested interests and to punish debtors as criminals," she said, adding that the matrimonial home should be taken out of bankruptcy proceedings.

The Bank Action Group is campaigning for fair play from the banks, which it claims have threatened the viability of thousands of small businesses through high interest rates, overcharging on accounts and cavalier decisions.

Mr Weatherill became a founder member of the group after his family company's interior fitments were effectively put out of business by Lloyds Bank. "We were tendering for a £50,000 contract last April but were close to our £40,000 overdraft limit and needed more funds to supply materials and labour for the contract," he said. "The bank refused to extend our limit by a penny more and then demanded that we raise our own capital to match the overdraft."

The Weatherills extended their house and got a mortgage based on its new value, but they say that the bank used their £40,000 to pay off the overdraft and refused to allow them any more funds. "We had a recurring debt on the new mortgage which we could not service and we could not even afford petrol for the car," the family was forced to rely on unemployment and social security benefits.

A spokesman for Lloyds said Mr Weatherill's bank manager could find "no commercial justification for renewing his firm's overdraft" and there was no alternative to putting the Hankeys' company into receivership after being told by accountants that it was insolvent. He said: "We do not put profitable businesses into receivership. We want to help businesses and our managers all over the country are doing that every day."

The Bankruptcy Association telephone number is 0524 64305 and the Bank Action Group is on 0995 61049 and 0457 843444.



Out in the cold: Eddy Weatherill fights eviction

Police seek savings on gun purchases

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF constables are investigating the standardisation of police firearms in an attempt to improve national training and bring savings on orders from manufacturers.

At the moment purchases are controlled only by Home Office guidelines on ammunition that police can use. These preclude some powerful forms, such as the modern equivalent of the dum dum round.

Although the number of officers trained and authorised to use guns has dropped, many forces have established highly specialised units to provide armed cover. Twenty-four of the 43 forces in England and Wales keep armed response units: mobile officers who keep guns in their cars. The rising use of arms in crime has forced police to invest in more modern weapons.

The Metropolitan Police, the force with the largest number of qualified firearms officers in mainland Britain, relies on four basic types of gun. The 1,500 operational

weapons available for London officers include standard Smith and Wesson model 10 revolvers, Glock 9mm automatics for bodyguard work and some specialist units, and Heckler and Koch MP5 9mm carbines that are used at Heathrow or for special duties. The force also has 50 Steyr rifles for long-range marksmanship.

Another force may choose another standard hand weapon or automatic and different types of rifle or carbine. The Steyr, which costs about £800 for a basic weapon, may be considered suitable for London, but a rural force may decide to buy more expensive rifles on which they rely more heavily.

Variations, however, may cause training difficulties. All firearms training is provided by six regional centres. Officers sent to one centre may be trained on the guns used by the force running that centre, not those used by their own force. Specialised courses for bodyguard training could also benefit from standardisation.

£sd finally vanishes as florin flounders

YET another new coin will make its official debut on Wednesday, designed to replace the existing 10p piece and certain to cause even more confusion among the public, which has had to contend with more than 21 years of changes to the British coinage since decimalisation in February 1971.

The new 10p coin will be smaller and lighter than its predecessor.

The existing coins include the last remnants of the old coinage: what used to be called the florin or the two bob. Remember two bob? No, you probably don't.

You've got used to paying nearly £2 for a pint, and the last thing you want is some crumbly remnant of how back in the Dark Ages you could hand this silver-coloured coin across the bar, and still have change for a packet of crisps.

Then, of course, there was the half-crown. The half-what? It was another slightly larger coin, also silver-coloured, which would now be valued at 12½p and which presumably wore an even bigger hole in the pocket.

Were holes in the pocket a bigger problem in those long-lost days, bearing in mind that

John Young asks whether our new coin is just a step on the road to a single European currency and plastic money



Heavy metal: the 10p and its lighter replacement

your average trouser was also loaded down with what would nowadays be considered outrageously large pennies and halfpennies? Halpenny? Yes, £d, about one fifth of 1p. Nowadays it would pay for a handful of winegums or a quarter of a postage stamp.

Holes in pockets, or handbags, are the pretext for the introduction of the modern 10p, which will replace the last remnant of the old coinage.

The government would

have us believe that we are finally liberated from the crippling burden of a pocketful of heavy metal, and can now march confidently forward into the brave new world of exchange-rate mechanism, the ecu and the all-purpose plastic card.

Does anyone believe that? Do you? The real reason why coins are getting smaller is, of course, that they are rapidly becoming more expensive to produce than their face value.



Softly, softly: WPCs Beryl Fennell, left, and Joanne Easen at a press conference in Rayleigh, Essex, yesterday

Hospital refused last wish for toast

A DYING cancer victim was refused a slice of toast in hospital because it was not on the menu. Cyril Bradbury, 71, was told that it was not management policy to provide toast. His daughter resorted to smuggling it in to Dewsbury District Hospital, West Yorkshire, wrapped in napkins.

The hospital has since launched an enquiry and sent a letter of apology to Mr Bradbury's family.

Mr Bradbury, of Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, died from cancer after a six-week stay in the hospital. His daughter Denise said that he had asked for toast as he did not like the hospital food. "We were told that because of management policy none could be provided. I offered to take in my own toaster but they would not allow that either."

Gordon Walker, the hospital's acute services manager, said that the incident should never have happened and that he had expressed his disappointment to the staff.

The hospital served continental breakfast of cereals, rolls, butter and jam but that did not mean toast could not be served, he said. "In such special circumstances we should do all we can to try to answer requests, whether they be for food or anything else."

Girl's rapist 'being shielded'

BY RAY CLANCY

SEVERAL men have been questioned about the rape of a girl aged eight who was attacked in a park on her way to school. They have been eliminated from enquiries, Essex police said last night.

The men were questioned after the girl gave female officers a further detailed description of her attacker. She was found half naked in Northlands Park, Pitsea, Essex, on Friday morning.

More than 200 calls from the public are being followed up by detectives who believe that someone may be shielding the rapist. "We must find this man before he attacks again. We believe someone knows who he is," Det Sgt Ivan Dibley, leading the investigation, said.

The girl was trying to catch

up with friends in the park when she was pulled into bushes and raped. Police are looking for a black man between 5ft 6in and 5ft 10in, slim to medium build with a squashed nose and protruding bottom teeth. At the time of the attack he was wearing a grey jacket and trousers, and black moccasins.

WPC Joanne Easen, who has spoken to the girl, said that she had talked about wanting to go back to school and play with her friends.

"She's naturally very bubbly. However, it's been very traumatic. She wants to play with her friends and carry on as normal. She certainly puts on a face of being happy, but as soon as she starts to talk about what happened, it shows."

WPC Beryl Fennell said that

the girl was aware of the importance of capturing the man. "She would just like to see him caught to stop him doing this to somebody else. She thinks he is horrible."

The officers, both members of the Essex police child abuse protection team, are spending 14 hours a day with the girl and her family. Neighbours have been helping the family and have brought the girl a hamster and other gifts.

WPC Fennell said that the girl was undergoing counselling. "It is very intense. It covers how she feels about people, about men in particular," she said. "It covers some sensitive areas which take a long time to get over. She is only eight but children are far more resilient than people give them credit for."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl, two, addicted to nicotine

A doctor has diagnosed two-year-old Cherie Piper as a nicotine addict. She started smoking when she began to crawl by puffing on cigarette ends left in ashtrays at her home in Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Her mother, Amanda Piper, 24, believes the addiction started because she smoked heavily while pregnant.

"We hid every cigarette in the house for two weeks. Cherie went wild. She was screaming with withdrawal symptoms," she said.

Crash deaths

Two men died when they were hurled through the window of a car just before it crashed in flames at Loftus, Cleveland, on Saturday night. Simon Mitchell and Neil Riley, both 28, of Loftus, were killed instantly. A man is to appear in court at Guisborough this morning charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Police pelted

Police were pelted with bricks and bottles by 200 youths when they tried to stop two men fighting outside a pub in Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday. In Darford, Kent, 50 officers took an hour to restore order when 30 youths started fighting in the street.

Nilsen moved

Dennis Nilsen, who was jailed for life in 1983 for murdering 15 young men, has been moved from Albany jail on the Isle of Wight to Whitemoor maximum security prison, Cambridgeshire.

Animals attack

Animal rights activists have claimed responsibility for pouring paint stripper on cars outside the home of an Oxford University research scientist at Crawley, Oxfordshire, early yesterday.

Bond winners

Premium Bonds draw winners this week: £100,000, number SFS892429, winner lives in West Sussex, value of holding £268, £50,000, 24 BS825085, Gwynedd, £9,100, £25,000, 1FW917680, Roxburgh, £27.

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Leading article, page 13

Chairman calls for inspectorate

Rude or lazy judges 'need reprimanding'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

AN inspectorate to take judges to task if they are discourteous, slow or lazy was urged by Lord Gareth Williams of Mosyn, chairman of the Bar, at the weekend.

In a controversial speech at the start of the two-day Bar conference he also urged earlier retirement for judges and an end to the "insidious and probably unlawful" use of deputy part-time judges in the High Court.

Lord Williams said that the intellectual quality, rigour and personal financial inoperability of the judiciary was "without question". But there was "no sufficient measure of judicial quality and expertise after appointment". If judges misbehaved, they could be sacked, he said. This had only happened once. Or if they made "a horrendous mess" of a case, it would possibly be put right in the appeal court. "But these are very blunt remedies for deficiencies which need subtler mechanisms," he said.



Lord Williams attacked use of part-time judges

In a press conference, Lord Williams said that he did not intend — and would be very suspicious of — any interference with judges' decisions. However, there were other aspects of judicial performance, such as overrunning cases, starting late, being rude to witnesses or reserving judgment for 18 months, that could be tackled.

An inspectorate or review body with lay members could hear complaints and then

advise judges, or recommend disciplinary action to the Lord Chancellor. It would publish an annual report, possibly naming judges as a last resort.

Lord Williams, in attacking the use of deputy part-time judges, said that part-timers outnumbered High Court judges in most weeks and most courts in the Royal Courts of Justice. This devalued the system and caused enormous resentment.

It was particularly important that the appeal court's criminal division be staffed only by appeal court judges. At present one appeal judge would sit with two first-instance judges, leading at times to incoherence and inconsistency.

Lord Williams also urged earlier retirement for judges, at the age of 65 for high court and circuit judges and 70 for appeal judges, with "no coming back". He attacked government proposals for 20-year service before pension entitlement, saying that judges should be able to retire after 15 years.



Face of change: Anne Rafferty, QC, who is chairing the annual Bar conference, is one of few women at the top of a profession where 95 per cent of QCs are men. The theme of this year's conference in London is reform of the legal system

Police losing faith in justice system says chief constable

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

A CHIEF constable fiercely answered critics of the police at the weekend, giving warning of widespread loss of confidence among officers in the criminal justice system.

The pendulum had swung too far in favour of defendants, said John Evans, chief constable of Devon and Cornwall, at the Bar conference in London on Saturday. An outmoded and "arrogant" criminal justice system was as much to blame for miscarriages of justice as the police.

As for the rules under which police operated, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 had become a "grossly bureaucratic and negative code working as often as not to conceal the truth and protect suspects from investigation".

Rules were needed, but the present ones were leading to a situation "in which none but the dimwitted and genuinely remorseful are likely to admit anything. It is a sad but blatant truth that I have hardly spoken to a police officer of any rank in recent years who is not losing confidence in the criminal justice system."

Mr Evans, who led an enquiry into the convictions of the Birmingham Six, called for changes which would "revolutionise" the trial system. He wanted disclosure of the defence case, for juries to be able

to draw inferences from silence or sullen response to questioning, and for a defendant's previous record to be admissible as a challenge to his defence.

Police were not faultless, he said. But the practices that had come under fire were condoned for years by the courts. The rules by which police conducted interviews were drawn by judges.

The rules insisted that no pressure be applied, he said. But the criminal courts relied on such a practice. There could be no more intimidating practice for a police officer, witness or defendant than to stand in the witness box surrounded by the costume and dignity of the court and be cross-examined by clever professional advocates whose aim was to discredit or undermine.

At the conference, she urged time limits on trials, a new simple fraud offence, counsel for the prosecution and defence to give an opening synopsis of the case, jurors to receive a brief summary of the case in writing, and more plea bargaining so that cases could be dealt with before they reached court.

'Enlist lay help' on children

DIFFICULT children's cases should be decided by judges sitting with lay men and women rather than on their own, a Court of Appeal judge told the conference (Francis Gibb writes).

Lord Justice Balcombe said that the move would increase public confidence. "We all know that there are some judges whose decisions about children, while quite possibly right in the particular circumstances, leave the competing parties feeling that they have had less than justice," he said.

The change would also counter allegations of bias. Some fathers, for instance, felt that courts were biased against them in custody cases.

"A court comprised of three members, and in particular one whose members are not all of the same sex, is more likely to instil confidence in the parties that their decision is not based on established attitudes or preconceptions," Lord Justice Balcombe said.

Lay members could be recruited from the retired. If they had grand children, such people were probably as well-qualified as any.

Sequel to wife's release

A RESHAPING of the law on provocation was urged at the conference after the release on Friday of a woman who had been jailed for life for murdering her violent husband by setting him alight (Francis Gibb writes).

Dr Nigel Eastman, a senior lecturer in forensic psychiatry at St George's Medical School, said that the definition of provocation should be changed.

At present, the only defences open to battered women such as Kiranjit Ahluwalia, who kill after years of ill treatment, are provocation or diminished responsibility. Diminished responsibility can fail as a defence if the defendant did not develop a serious mental disorder and provocation fails if the murder did not arise out of sudden loss of control.

Women who killed their abusers commonly fell between these two defences. "Dr Eastman said. He recommended the definition of provocation should be loosened, to become "some act, or series of acts... which would cause a reasonable person, and actually caused the defendant, for the moment not to be master of his or her own mind".

Dr Eastman also called for greater use of expert witnesses in such cases, which would help determine when a woman's reactions had been changed by prolonged maltreatment and motives of revenge.

Bingham puts case for bill of rights

A BILL of rights would allow British rather than European judges to determine and protect the rights of British citizens, Lord Justice Bingham, who becomes Master of the Rolls on Thursday, said yesterday (Francis Gibb writes).

The need for such a bill, which would enshrine the European Convention on Human Rights in domestic law, had never been greater, he told the conference.

Britain was now more mixed in racial, religious and cultural terms than ever before and the need to ensure the happiness and fulfilment of citizens was very much at stake, he said.

It was crazy for a boy who had been shipped at school to have to spend seven years taking his complaint to Strasbourg before a court of 18 judges at "no doubt considerable cost", said Lord Justice Bingham.

"We are signatories of the European Convention; we ratified it and in large measure drafted it. But the courts are unable, save in a marginal way, to pay any attention to it."

The present position had three undesirable results, he said. The first was that it "weakened the confidence of the public in the British courts as a place where they could go to get their rights protected." There was now a common belief among every disgruntled, losing citizen leaving court that he would have to go to Strasbourg for a remedy.

Second, the absence of the convention in British law led to "frequent reversal" of United Kingdom court decisions at an international tribunal. It would be better if our washing were laundered at home rather than in public, Lord Justice Bingham said.

Third was the delay and cost of going to Strasbourg. There might be an important issue brought by the boy on corporal punishment but anyone would question the need for a seven year delay and 18 judges to deal with it. Judges could be well trusted to protect human rights. They were already doing so in Europe; the only question was whether our judges should do so.

Opposing a bill of rights, Lord Justice of King's College, London, warned that if judges went down that road they were taking a terrible risk.

Judges, not Parliament, would end up deciding such issues as abortion or the right of reply and freedom of expression.

There would be immense unstoppable pressure to ensure judges were "politically correct" and to ensure a representative judiciary rather than one that was chosen on merit, he said.

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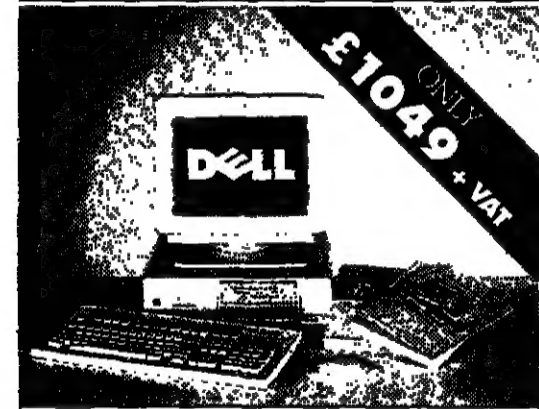
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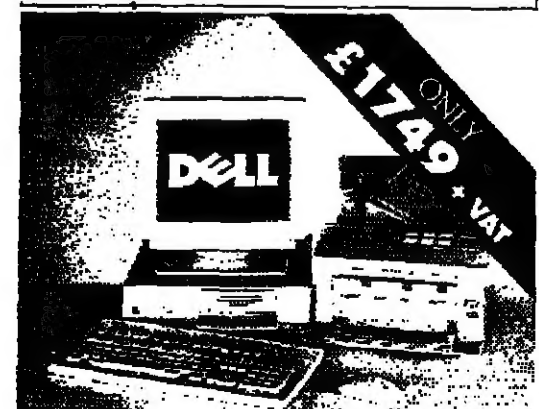
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Phones ring again for estate agents after loan rates cut

By STAFF REPORTERS

CONFIDENCE seems to be seeping back into the housing market after the cut in interest rates. A Times survey at the weekend found that, while estate agents are hardly buzzing with the excitement of the 1980s, homebuyers are returning.

Philip Agius, senior manager of the Clapham branch of Woolwich Property Services, said: "People are just about to come out of the woodwork after waiting for things to settle down during the turmoil over interest rates and the ERM. Now that there seems to have been a firm decision in favour of lower interest rates buyers can more easily predict their expenditure."

Veronika Segall and Patrick Evans, who are looking for a small house in Battersea or Clapham, south London, were encouraged by the lower rate. "We feel the 9 per cent rate is bound to be reduced even further in time for the Tory party conference," Mr Evans said. "We gave up looking last year because we were not impressed by what we could get. For the same money today we think we can find a much better place."

Historically low mortgage rates have attracted a great deal of attention in building society branches and mortgage brokers' offices. Property loans are being offered below 8 per cent for the first time in more than 20 years by several lenders, with guarantees in some cases that the payments cannot be increased.

A loan at 8.25 per cent fixed for two years is being offered by the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society. The information appeared on screens in branches on Thursday afternoon and a large chunk of the money was allocated by close of business on Friday.

Abbey National has extended its 1.75 per cent discount for first-time buyers to January 31, 1994. This gives a rate of 7.74 per cent, its lowest since 1969, for those who want to borrow more than £100,000. But they must have saved more than £11,000.

Loan rates alone do not make a market. Bradford & Bingley has been trying to sell the repossessed properties on its books for a year by offering loans fixed at 6.99 per cent until December 1994. The society had 45,000 inquiries in the first six months of the scheme, but so far only 1,400 sales have gone ahead, 57 per cent to first-timers.

In Fulham, southwest London, estate agents say house sales are rapidly improving as buying gradually becomes better value than renting. Mark Woods, of Raymond Bushell, said: "We are very close to the point where people will be better off buying. Once we pass that point there will be a blip in the market. People are still scared, however, and they don't trust estate agents. But they are becoming more confident."

The most active buyers in Fulham were single women aged 25, he said. "I've had a massive amount of young women wanting to see flats. Their fathers have spotted the buyers' market and are helping their daughters."

Kevin Ash, a director of Hunters, of Solihull, West Midlands, said that on the day the sterling crisis broke, the telephone stopped ringing. "Before that the market had not been too bad this year. As long as the price was right, property would sell. Overall on the year we have not suffered at all, but you have got to be realistic about the price."

The telephone had soon started ringing again after interest rates were reduced, although people were still worried about their jobs. Properties up to £150,000 were selling, but beyond that it was "sticky", he said.

In the North West, Stephen Minchin, managing director of Reeds Rains, found a distinct air of optimism when

he toured his company's branches after the cut in interest rates. "It is early days and we now need two or three weeks without any increase in the bank rate. Buyers are cautious and there is a view that, although rates may have come down 3 per cent, is there any guarantee they will stay there?" he said.

David Bulman, manager of Harrison and Hetherington, in Carlisle, said the sudden fluctuations in interest rates had done nothing to boost confidence and it would take a few months of stability before an improvement. "There is a definite 'let's rent and see' attitude," he said.

Richard Lowth, sales manager with Black Horse, said the market was better, but prices were still depressed by the volume of unsold or repossessed houses and by uncertainty about jobs. Redundancies at British Aerospace in the North West had done nothing for confidence.



Short order: Tina Hindle, 8, with a two-week-old donkey foal, measuring only 20in high and bred to be the smallest in the country. The unnamed foal is an American Sicilian, the world's smallest donkey breed, and is unlikely to grow taller than 30in. It was bred by Lady Beaumont, of Burley Gate, near Hereford

Dimbleby attacks road policy

By MICHAEL DINES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TRANSPORT policy is causing irreversible environmental damage, Jonathan Dimbleby, the new president of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, will say today.

Launching a campaign to curb the government's £20 billion road building programme, he will call on ministers to embark on a radical overhaul of transport policy so that Britain can honour commitments to reduce pollution made at the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro earlier this year.

A campaign leaflet, *Wheeling Out Of Control*, calls for the transport department to be turned into an independent authority responsible for promoting a better balance between forms of transport. The leaflet also urges the government to use taxes to discourage car use.

The campaign has been timed to focus on the government's second annual report on the environment, which is due to be published on Thursday by Michael Howard, the environment secretary.



Philip Agius: easier to predict spending

Executives turn to Continent as UK jobs dry up

UNEMPLOYED executives and managers as well as blue collar workers are increasingly turning towards Europe as job opportunities in Britain dry up.

A survey by an international job-seeking company shows that large numbers of people have been made redundant in most European countries because of the recession. But there is a trend towards executives looking at a much wider jobs market and succeeding in finding employment.

There is a warning that looking for a job in Europe is not an easy option and that it can take an average of six months to secure the right post.

In some areas the freeing of trade and customs barriers will create jobs. On the other hand some companies, particularly those in the import-export business, no longer need several offices spread across the Continent and are expecting to close branches in 1993, when restrictions are removed.

British expertise in the financial sector is particularly sought after, according to Bernard Courtaud of Positive Career Management in Paris. "The demand varies according to the job. For example, there are fewer opportunities in sales and marketing, which have been affected by the recession all over Europe. But in finance, where English, the international language, is used, the demand is there. The big plus for British job-seekers in this area is the language," he said.

PCM has 29 offices in Europe and has identified a trend towards companies streamlining staff to cope with the recession. At the same time there is a higher

In the latest of a series on white-collar job cuts, Ray Clancy looks at Europe

demand for people with international experience. "You can tell by the job description that they are seeking someone who has international abilities, and when it comes to that British people do well," Mr Courtaud said.

The annual survey of redundancies in Europe by Drake Beam Morin, an international job-seeking company that provides counselling and employment searches for large corporations, individuals and government agencies, gives an insight into job patterns on the Continent.

Raymond Hudson, vice-president of European development at DBM, which has 39 offices in Europe, said: "It is rough everywhere and takes on average five or six months for a new post to be found. The trend is to look further afield and Europe offers a wide range of possibilities."

The company has found itself dealing with a wider range of workers as unemployment increases. It now gears its counselling programme for every need, from secretaries to managing directors.

The survey confirms that marketing and sales is not a good option, with more than a quarter of executives seeking employment in that field. Those looking for jobs through the company had an average of 11 years in their former positions.

Funny, isn't it?

In the 12 years I'd worked in

the Personnel Department, I'd

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we were looking for.

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computer programmers and

bank managers.

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of people looking for work that

surprised me.

It was the professional

attitude of the staff helping us

find it. Even so, I still had my

doubts about the type of work

they'd be able to find me.



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THOUGHT OF
USING
A JOB CENTRE.
UNTIL I
LOST MY JOB."**

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JOB CENTRE

Gould throws off straitjacket to lead rebels

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EURO SPLIT

BRYAN Gould's decision to resign from the shadow cabinet yesterday put him at the head of Labour's Euro-rebels. Mr Gould said that the shadow cabinet had operated as a "gag and a straitjacket" which had suppressed debate.

Using a fringe conference held by the Labour Common Market safeguards committee as the platform for his resignation speech, Mr Gould admitted there was still a "gulf" between the views he had expressed during and after the leadership campaign and those which had been adopted by the party.

Following last Wednesday's shadow cabinet meeting Mr Gould felt he could not go on expressing his views opposing the party's policy backing Maastricht and the ERM, while he remained in the cabinet. But he was not prepared to be "one of those who waits till his voice no longer counts before he speaks out". Yesterday he made clear he could no longer toe the line.

"The views I express cannot any longer be expressed by a member of the shadow cabinet. I do not complain about the rules enforcing collective responsibility," he said. "That creates a dilemma for me which has to be resolved."

Others had pressed him to argue his case within the privacy of the shadow cabinet, he admitted. "But I know that far from providing a sounding board, the shadow cabinet in these circumstances operates as a gag and a straitjacket which suppresses real debate."

"I have no illusions about how rapidly I will be disowned and marginalised about my decision to speak my mind. I have decided that, so long as my voice is heard, to use it to argue these great issues of full employment, democracy, capacity to govern ourselves and our future in Europe. It is with the greatest regret that I acknowledge that I can only do that from outside the cabinet."

To cheers of "well done" and a standing ovation from some of those attending the meeting, Mr Gould, left the platform, devoid of emotion,

to meet the waiting television cameras. Earlier after condemning the government's own chaotic and inconsistent position on Maastricht and Europe Mr Gould had turned his fire on his own party's policy.

While accepting that the Labour had moved from its rigid position of being "more slavish supporters of ERM and parity than the government itself" he criticised the party for supporting the principle of the ERM and failing to support a referendum on the Maastricht treaty.

Labour had now disowned the statement, made at the heart of the sterling crisis, that it was opposed not only to devaluation but a general realignment as well.

The new terms for re-entry might also "bear some resemblance" to the conditions of membership which were part of Labour policy in 1988 and were "surprisingly abandoned when those who fought for them were moved out of the way."

He backed John Smith's decision that the Maastricht treaty should not be brought back to the Commons till the Danish position was clear. "We should have no truck with attempts to browbeat the Danes into reversing a decision arrived at democratically."

"But we do not yet recognise the futility and the damaging consequences of putting the defence of the exchange rate at the heart of economic policy." The party had not recognised that the ERM is bridge to economic and monetary union had been shattered, he said.

Mr Gould said Maastricht presented an irreversible step to a "permanent yielding up on the part of the British people of one of the most important powers of government. This should not be taken without asking the British people." But he emphasised he was not anti-Europe but anti-Maastricht.

Gould quits, page 1
Diary, page 12
Peter Riddell, page 12
Leading article, page 13



Fading reds bemoan fate

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE LEFT

Leading dissenter: John Smith's first formal duty at this year's annual conference was to attend a church service.

The Labour leader, like many predecessors, went to North Shore Methodist Church for morning worship.

The church was crowded and photographers, television crews and onlookers packed the pews outside.

It was a big moment for the Rev Stephen Neath who took up his duties in Blackpool four weeks ago. His sermon said that we needed each other and there should be less polarisation.

Mr Smith, who was accompanied by his wife Elizabeth, read the first lesson, the opening verses of the fifth chapter of the Gospel according to St Matthew.

POST mortem examinations are never funny affairs, but one in the company of Labour's left wing would make the corpse the life and soul of the gathering. As Labour examines the cadaver of its general election campaign, the party's "true socialist" tendency is not in good humour.

The hard-left, dismayed at Labour's lurch to the right, had to suffer the additional indignity yesterday of discussing Clause 4, women's equality, and the collapse of trade unionism in the feudal setting

of the Baronial Hall at the Winter Gardens. Rarely have the hall's crests, flags and crowns attracted less admiration from an audience.

Yet history is never lost on those who attend Campaign for Democracy in the Labour Party (CDLP) meetings. Karl Marx, Keir Hardie, The Ragged Trousered Philanthropist, women's suffrage, and the Chartists remain tip-of-the-tongue socialist landmarks, which eclipse contemporary politicians' flirtations with fame.

Nor is a week a long time on this side of politics. As Tony Benn found yesterday, 28 years might as well be yesterday. He was pressed to explain his comment that Labour should consider discussions with other parties.

Mr Benn, with customary charm and honesty, cast aside his one-time lapse: "I accept responsibility for most things, but not what I said in 1964."

With the meeting meandering towards increasingly sharp recrimination against the leadership, it needed the personality of Mr Benn, Dennis Skinner and Ken Livingstone to lighten the gloom.

Mr Skinner swept into the packed hall fuming from a series of familiarly overwhelming defeats on the national executive committee.

Sharing his view that the party leadership was about to shoot itself in the right foot on every issue from Maastricht to coal imports, Mr Skinner had more immediate financial troubles in mind.

The party had spent £33,000 building a television-friendly platform in the Winter Gardens conference hall.

Mr Skinner, never slow to promote the desirability of his Derbyshire constituency, told delegates: "You can buy a semi-detached house in Bolsover for that."

Labour told how to regain trust of political waverers

By PETER RIDDELL

PARTY PROFILE

THE Labour party is failing to recognise the aspirations of the kind of people who watch such television programmes as *Only Fools and Horses* and read the novels of Frederick Forsyth, Danielle Steel and Jilly Cooper.

A survey of attitudes of political waverers, who considered voting Labour last April but in the end voted Conservative, was carried out by GMA Monitor with discussion groups.

It covered five marginal constituencies in the South East which the party failed to win at the election. The results appear in a Fabian Society report by Giles Radice, the Labour MP for Durham North, published today.

The white collar and skilled manual workers and their spouses aged between 25 and 50 saw themselves as socially upwardly mobile during the 1980s. They were apprehensive about losing their homes and jobs.

While they had considered voting Labour, they saw the party as "most likely to take things away and likely to look after losers rather than the ordinary man."

The Tories are felt to understand ambition, while Labour is about equality and levelling down. The interviewees also believed Labour would mismanage the economy.

The report says: "Respondents feel strongly about underfunding the NHS and education, but are unable to afford what they believe would be much higher taxes, and unwilling to fund Labour's plans of, at best, throwing money at these good causes and, at worst, throwing money at other lost causes."

In the pamphlet, Mr Radice notes that the waverers do not believe Labour "understands, respects or rewards those who want to get on. Far from encouraging talent and opportunity, Labour is seen as the party that is likely to clobber people. From the perspective

of the aspiring groups, voting Labour is not seen to be in their interests."

He says Labour must treat the findings with "the utmost seriousness" since these aspiring, but worried, people make up the majority of the electorate and also represent the crucial swing voters who will decide the election.

□ Southern Discomfort, Giles Radice, Fabian Pamphlet No 555, £3.50. Qualitative research amongst waverers in Labour's southern target seats, GMA Monitor for Fabian Society, £15.

Leading article, page 13

By-election system put to the test

THE Labour party will head into unknown territory when it begins its first by-election campaign for a shadow cabinet post next month.

The party, which ten years ago decided to set up an election system for any vacant cabinet posts, has so far not needed to use it. Officials admitted last night that there were still many aspects of the process to be ironed out. A spokesman said: "We are definitely in uncharted territory."

Ron Davies is the most likely replacement for Bryan Gould, following his narrow failure to be elected to the shadow cabinet in July, when he polled 83 votes among fellow MPs. The long-standing spokesman on agriculture and rural affairs remains a popular choice among his peers.

Other possible candidates include Derek Fatchett, Barry Jones, and George Robertson, former European foreign affairs spokesman.

Economy moves to fore

TODAY'S debates at the conference will be dominated by the economy and Europe. This morning's debate will be on a motion condemning government economic policy and calling for state intervention to rebuild the country's manufacturing base.

It will be opened by Gordon Brown, shadow chancellor, and wound up for the national executive committee by Robin Cook, the shadow trade and industry secretary.

AGENDA

In the afternoon Gerald Kaufman, the former shadow foreign secretary who has now retired to the back benches, will open and close a debate on an NEC statement *Europe - Our Economic Future*. Glyn Ford, leader of Labour's MEPs will also speak in the afternoon. Larry Whitty, the party general secretary, will report on the general election.

Four musketeers lead shadow army

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith is swiftly passing milestones. The triumph of his Commons debut as Labour leader on Thursday followed key national executive and shadow cabinet meetings the previous day, when Mr Smith's firm and assured performances, knocking his dissidents into line without heavy-handedness, won rare private reviews from those who would not be considered his natural allies.

A fortnight before, Mr Smith had reached another personal summit. He climbed his one hundredth Munro, Buachaille Etive Mor near Fort William, on his fifty-fourth birthday. Mounting these 3,000-foot Scottish peaks have been the Labour leader's way of keeping in shape since his heart attack four years ago.

By his side, as usual, was Murray Elder, one of Mr Smith's closest friends and the chief of staff in his Westminster office. Through the summer the two men have been virtually inseparable. During the long parliamentary recess, Mr Smith could often be seen having lunch at one of the cafeterias that stay open for staff who remain at work at the Commons when MPs are away. Mr Elder was always there beside him. Mr Smith is said by close friends to rely heavily on his fellow Scot, who began working for him in 1980 when he was shadow trade secretary.

Mr Elder, now 42, was a Bank of England official who jumped at the chance of entering politics when asked to become a special adviser by Mr Smith and Denis Healey. After several years on the shadow cabinet corridor, Mr Elder returned north to work for the Scottish Labour party, becoming secretary four years ago.

When it became obvious after the election that Mr



Chief aides: Margaret Beckett and Murray Elder



SMITH TEAM

Smith was to become Labour leader it was to Mr Elder that he turned. Knowledgeable, worldly-wise, calm and reflective, Mr Elder was always considered to be "in a league of his own" by his friends in the big team of advisers who looked after Labour's leaders during the Eighties.

According to close observers of the Scottish political scene it was Mr Smith, along with Mr Elder, Donald Dewar, the shadow Scottish secretary for most of that time, and Gordon Brown who "ran" Labour's policy on Scotland and devolution throughout Neil Kinnock's leadership.

The four men are the closest friends and spend much leisure time together. Although there was internal criticism only days ago that Mr Smith was not doing enough to capitalise on the government's difficulties before the ERM withdrawal Mr Elder is credited with backing Mr Smith's personal judgment that Labour would not gain by dancing on sterling's grave and that the government should be left for a time to stew in its own problems. Mr Smith's success last week was vindication of that conclusion.

In the shadow cabinet Mr Smith's most important confi-

dants are Mr Brown and Mr Dewar. Tony Blair, Jack Cunningham and Margaret Beckett, his deputy, Mr Brown rose so quickly through the Labour ranks to head the shadow cabinet lists that by last year he was considered a serious leadership contender. Mr Dewar, like Mr Smith, does not mince words. He is highly valued by Mr Smith as someone who will tell him straight if he thinks he is making a misjudgment. Mr Dewar, needing to withdraw from the Scottish post, was happy to accept Mr Smith's offer to become shadow social security secretary where he will play a key role in setting up Mr Smith's new commission on social justice.

Perhaps Mr Smith's closest friend is Derry Irvine, Lord Irvine of Lairg and a fellow QC, who could become Lord Chancellor in a Labour government. The two men speak and see each other frequently. It was through Lord Irvine that he first got to know Mr Blair, now his shadow home secretary, when he worked in his chambers as a young barrister. The good relationship he has developed with Mr Beckett is cited by colleagues as proof of his non-sectarian attitude to politics.

Mrs Beckett hails from the far left but as Mr Smith's deputy in the shadow Treasury team

she was a model of responsible orthodoxy. Mr Cunningham and Mr Smith have been close associates since they entered the Commons together in 1970 and are linked by their sponsorship by the GMB union and their strong pro-Europeanism.

Inside the Smith team a key role is played by David Hill, Mr Hill, Roy Hattersley's special adviser inside and out of government for more than a decade, is now Labour's director of communications. But he is combining the role with that of being Mr Smith's spokesman. In the last fortnight when Mr Smith was facing a revolt by Eurosceptic rebels in the shadow cabinet Mr Hill proved a masterly interpreter of his leader's intentions.

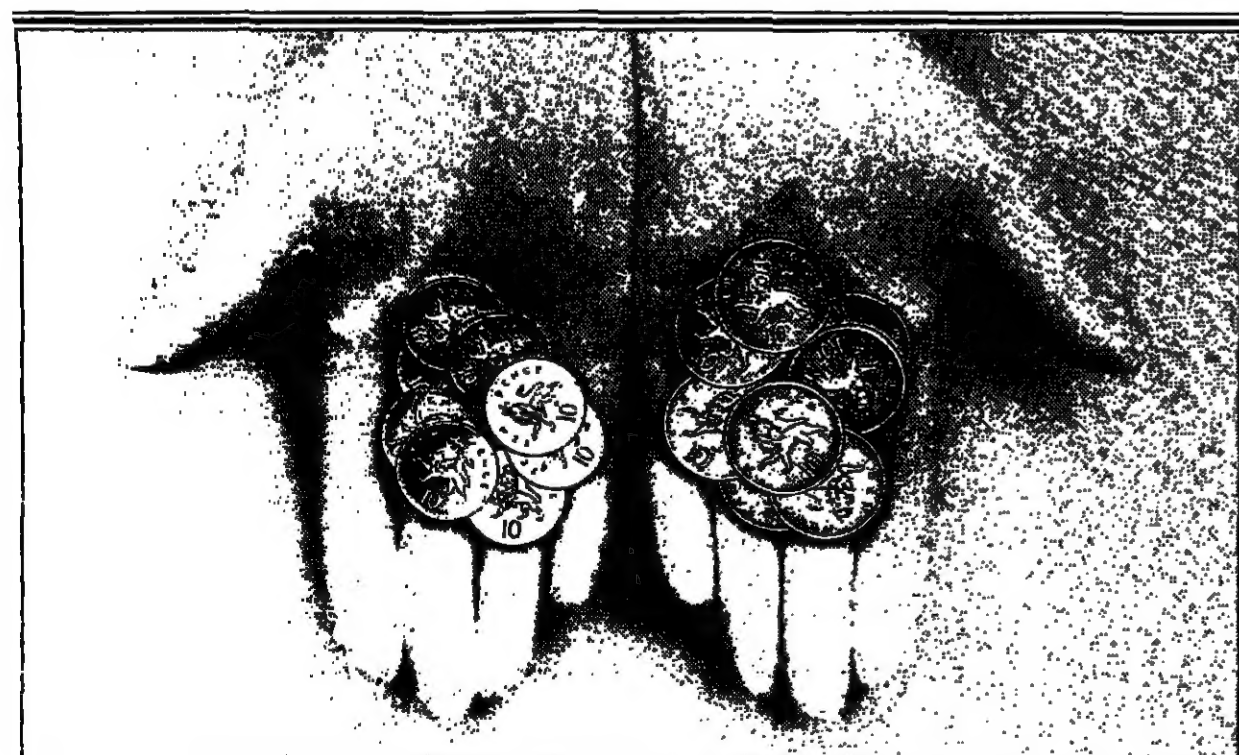
Hilary Coffman, who worked for both Michael Foot and Neil Kinnock, is Mr Smith's personal press officer assisted by Mike Elrick, who has moved down from the Scottish party.

David Ward, aged 36, who was formerly Smith's economic adviser, has become his chief policy officer.

Mr Smith has brought in a former MI 6 high-flyer to be his foreign policy adviser. Margaret "Meta" Ramsey, aged 56, resigned from the foreign office last year after more than 20 years in the diplomatic service. She has known Mr Smith since they were students at Glasgow University together and is a long-standing Labour member.

His chief economic adviser is Andrew Graham, an economics tutor at Balliol. Mr Graham figured briefly during the election campaign after a potentially embarrassing leak of advice to the shadow Treasury team.

Mr Smith's team is completed by Ann Barrett, his personal secretary, and Delly Evans, a former broadcaster who worked for Mrs Beckett during the deputy leadership campaign, and will work on speeches and research.



From September 30th the ten pence coin will be a little less of a handful.

September 30th sees the launch of the new, more convenient ten pence coin. As you'll see, it's a little smaller and lighter. So it's a little easier to carry around.

The handy new ten pence coin will replace the old one - which ceases to be legal tender on June 30th, 1993.



THE NEW TEN PENCE COIN. A NEW CONVENIENT SIZE.

ROYAL MINT

Serbs, holding towns and roads, are proving vulnerable to Muslim hit-and-run guerrilla tactics

Muslim offensive turns war against Serbs in Bosnia

IN EASTERN Bosnia the tide of war has turned. Serb villages are burning, roads are unsafe and more Serb soldiers are dying than ever before. Columns of smoke rise above the Drina river valley, the graveyard in Zvornik has overflowed and Bosnian Muslims are on the offensive.

Black-clad families march to Zvornik's cemetery to bury their sons. Fighters speed past in trucks mounted with anti-aircraft guns. They call themselves the Legion of Death.

In nearby Loznica hospital in Serbia, Dr Djordje Vracovic says that fewer wounded have been brought in over the past month, "but there are more dead". The thump of artillery can be heard around Zvornik. Bosnian fighters are less than ten miles away.

Ten miles to the south, smoke rises above Drinjac. Last Thursday Dr Vracovic stood on the Serbian bank of the Drina and watched the Bosnian Serb village of Novo Selo burn. On the same day, Podravje, close to Bratunac, also fell. Yugoslav police say that Muslim guerrillas are so close to the Drina, which separates Bosnia from Serbia, that the occasional mortar sometimes lands on their side.

Operating out of unoccupied enclaves, and using weapons smuggled along partisan trails, Bosnian forces have put Serbs on the defensive in areas previously well under their control. Bosnian Serbs, soldiers and civilians,

The battle of the Drina river has just begun. Tim Judah writes from Skelani, where a devastating campaign is being waged from woods and mountains

are being ambushed in guerrilla attacks, and dying, as never before.

At the end of August, Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, told the London conference that, as a magnanimous and unilateral gesture, his men were lifting the siege of Gorazde. It was the only significant town along the Drina that his men had been unable to subdue. In fact, Serb troops were already in retreat. Mr Karadzic was seeking to salvage international credit from a military disaster. The Bosnians were breaking out and from a besieged town, Gorazde is now an expanding enclave. Nearby Foca is under threat and Visegrad is in the grip of a creeping encirclement.

Eight miles from Visegrad, smoke rises from the woods around the village of Dobrun. The road into town is no longer safe. Cars are regularly sniped at. Soldiers coming from Visegrad say that the Muslims — "the Turks", as they scathingly call them — have been shelling the town for the past six days. "It's worse and worse every day," one soldier said. The message is the same all the way up the valley to Zvornik.

"We were guarding a tunnel between Gorazde and Visegrad," said Sladjan Simic, aged 24, who lies wounded in Uzice hospital in Serbia. "They attacked us and surrounded us. We were taken by surprise. There were 11 of us, four died. We were in the tunnel for eight days. They fired rockets in and threw in hand grenades. We had no water. We had to drink our own urine."

Before Sladjan Simic and his comrades made a break for safety, a wounded friend who could not run, "said goodbye to us and killed himself." After eight days the Muslims besieging the tunnel had dropped their guard. Many had gone on to fight elsewhere. "The ones that were left went to have dinner and we ran for it."

Dr Aleksander Moljevic says that in the past two weeks his hospital has had an influx of injuries from tripwire activated anti-personnel mines. This is new. Holding up an X-ray of a soldier's shrapnel-peppered leg he says: "They are not very good, probably they are Arab or Iranian made. Yugoslav ones take your leg off."

Behind Skelani the trees lining a mountain forest road have been cleared for 15 metres on either side. "We need the wood for winter," said a soldier named Bojan cheerfully. Then he tells the truth. "It's to stop ambushes."

In the mountains above riverside Skelani, Serbian officers complain that the United Nations delivers arms to Bosnian guerrillas. This is widely believed among Serbs.

The Srebrenica front is three miles away. Unconquered since the beginning of the war, Srebrenica is a large enclave. It has held its own against Serb attacks. Now it is on the offensive.

Tracing an arc across the map from the Bosnian-held town of Tuzla, a Serbian officer charts supply lines. British UN troops are to be garrisoned in Tuzla, and these

officers will be holding them responsible for every Serb that falls on this front. "Hungarian, Croat, Iranian and Arab arms," says the officer. "From Split on the Croatian coast they have a direct line to Tuzla. From there, at night through the mountain trails they smuggle them into Srebrenica. Morale? Good... excellent." The expression on his face betrays him.

A new chapter of the war has begun in eastern Bosnia. In early summer, well armed Bosnian Serbs led by ruthless militiamen from Serbia secured a swathe of land and towns down the Drina, essential to make a compact Serb territory in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The problem was that the population was overwhelmingly Muslim.

As the Serbs seized the Drina valley, tens of thousands fled and were "ethnically cleansed". But many men also went to the hills, to two big enclaves and several smaller ones which have not been subdued. Now, better armed and organised, these Muslims are using classic guerrilla tactics and mounting hit-and-run raids — tactics that have been used over hundreds of years of periodic war in this mountainous terrain.

Holding towns and roads, the regular army of the Bosnian Serbs is proving vulnerable. There is no more support from the Yugoslav army, although the Bosnian Muslims are still too weak to



Taking cover: Muslim women wait in a barn, where about 20 families have taken refuge, at a detention camp outside Banja Luka in Bosnia. The Red Cross is negotiating with the Serbs to evacuate the camp's 1,200 detainees

retake towns. The Serbs of eastern Bosnia are reconciled to years of war — to the fact that the battle of the Drina is only just beginning.

● Belgrade: The focus of peace efforts shifts here today, where Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the EC and UN envoys, are due to arrive. Lord Owen said they would be

taking up at the highest levels allegations of attacks on fleeing Bosnian refugees, and on targets such as roads used by aid convoys.



Sarajevo fears UN corridor will speed up ethnic division

As the painfully slow process of organising winter relief for Sarajevo gets underway, there is concern here that the United Nations might in the end only assist Serbian forces in their "ethnic cleansing" of the city.

UN officials say the plan to open a secure corridor through the western Serb-held suburb of Ilidza down to Mostar and Split, could lead to a mass exodus as thousands of people attempt to flee the shelling and freezing winter temperatures.

There seems little doubt that the Bosnian Serbs intend to take over at least part of western Sarajevo and will either drive its Muslim residents into the older eastern sector or expel them altogether. Adnan Abdel Razek, civil affairs officer with the UN peacekeeping force, said the dilemma was obvious. "I can see the pressure," he said. "We have hundreds of faxes from all kinds of people wanting to leave."

He said a United Nations plan to protect the people of

The UN plan could help Serbs control half the city, Edward Gorman reports from Sarajevo

Bosnia against the sub-zero cold of winter has been set back before it even begins. He told reporters the need for materials to cope with the cold and wet was "extremely critical". But the shooting down of an Italian aid plane on September 3 and the subsequent suspension of daily relief flights mean plans to bring in the supplies have yet to be put into effect.

The Bosnian presidency, which is highly critical of what it sees as the UN's incompetence in organising for the winter and in dealing with Serb obstructionism, is playing down the threat of a mass evacuation. This is partly because to accept it would be to admit an eventual defeat.

Ejup Ganic, the senior member of the presidency in the absence of Alija Izetbegovic, had said that he did not believe that many people would try to get out, apart from the sick, the elderly and children. Mr Ganic, however, did not hide the fact that the Bosnian government will stop people leaving by insisting on permits, by continuing to conscript men between the ages of 18 and 60, and by ordering others to work in vital services and factories. He said people in Sarajevo realised, despite their suffering, that taking to the road would probably bring more problems than it could solve.

The UN's planning for the Mostar-Ilidza route is being hampered by Serb authorities at Pale, outside Sarajevo. They are not allowing engineers from the city to repair vital road and rail bridges in the Mostar area. Moreover, the slow strangulation of Sarajevo is being effected not just by continuous shelling and sniper fire but also by deliberate manipulation of water and electricity supplies.

World war hero awards medals to UK troops

FROM NADA BURIC IN ZAGREB

SIR Fitzroy Maclean, famous for his parachute mission to Tito's partisans in the second world war, at the weekend visited a town devastated in last year's war in Croatia and presented medals to British peacekeeping troops.

Sir Fitzroy, 82, and Lady Veronica, his wife, are helping to raise funds for an orphanage that was destroyed in fighting in the town of Lipik, about 60 miles east of Zagreb. Before travelling to Lipik, Sir Fitzroy awarded United Nations medals to 38 members of a Royal Engineers unit serving in Sarajevo.

He was Britain's contact with Tito and is credited with swinging the Allies behind the Communist partisans. These days he hears some criticism that Yugoslavia might have avoided its current bloodshed had he acted differently.

Sir Fitzroy declined to comment on the civil wars tormenting the country, but as he inspected the ruined orphanage in Lipik, he said it was unbelievable that "people who fought on the same side in the second world war now fight against each other". The orphanage, he said, "will give space for all children, Croatian, Muslim and Serbian".

Sir Fitzroy came from his summer home on Korcula, an Adriatic island which Tito allowed him to own despite foreigners being forbidden to possess property in Communist Yugoslavia.

The Macleans met British soldiers who volunteered to clean rubble from the orphanage's three wrecked buildings on their free weekends. "We have found a cause here," said one of the soldiers, Craig Syme, 18, from Scotland. (AP)

United Nations staff, who have just completed a study of the increasingly serious water problem facing Sarajevo this winter, have concluded that repeated guarantees from Serbian commanders and political leaders that water will not be used as a weapon in the war are being disregarded.

The water problem provides a good example of how the infrastructure of Sarajevo is gradually breaking down under the pressure of six months of siege, increasing the possibility of serious epidemics. At present between 30 and 40 per cent of the normal supply is being lost because of damage to the water distribution system, caused by artillery fire.

The main pumping station in the western suburb of Ilidza, which provides 80 per cent of the normal supply, is operating at about 50 per cent of full capacity. Seven of its 22 pumps are out of action. The rest of the city's supply comes from three gravity feeds located in the mountains which are held by Serbs.



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Mitterrand portrayed as the Sun king

French ponder on president's future

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

ONLY a week since France delivered its mixed verdict on Mitterrand, Europe has all but vanished from the national radar screen as much of the political world has started husting President Mitterrand towards the exit.

"Must Mitterrand go?" asked *Le Journal du Dimanche* at the top of its front page yesterday, summarising the debate which has gripped the chattering classes since the president scraped through his referendum, and released word that he is suffering from prostate cancer. France's president of the past 11 years is tired, the newspaper said, "but is he politically finished? Nothing is less certain."

The election yesterday of a third of the Senate did little to distract the political world from its "Mitterrand watch". The indirect suffrage, by mayors, regional and town councillors and parliamentary deputies, left the upper house still dominated by the RPR neo-Gaullist party. The only impact for the government was the return of Michel Charasse, the budget minister, to the Senate, opening the way to a possible cabinet shuffle.

True to his inscrutable form, the man whose political gamble may have proved the coup de grace for Mitterrand, spent the weekend strolling the

beach at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, in Brittany, giving not a hint of his thoughts while politicians and pundits in Paris concocted a hundred scripts for his abdication and even a break with the constitutional system which the country has lived under since Charles de Gaulle.

The weekend saw the publication of the latest in a line of books denouncing the monarchical structure of the Fifth Republic. "Is the president at the service of the state or is the state at the service of the president?" wonders Jean-François Revel, the doyen of commentators, in *Inefficient Absolutism*, a blistering look at the failures of the institution.

Talk of change has been heightened by the unprecedented refusal last week by Jacques Chirac, the RPR leader, to contemplate a second period of "cohabitation" under Mitterrand if his party and its allies win a majority in parliamentary elections due in March. Gerard Longuet, the leader of the Republican party, one of the centre-right groupings, said M Chirac's words amounted to "a constitutional coup d'état". Jacques Chaban Delmas, the former Gaullist prime minister warned M Chirac, "the government cannot go on strike" and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, another of the political "elephants" in search of highest office, agreed.

According to the most popular scenario, M Mitterrand could decide to stand down early next year, ahead of parliamentary elections due in March. His second seven-year term ends in 1995. However this scenario supposes that he would do so on the grounds that his main mission — launching European Union — was accomplished.

The people may have uttered a tepid yes to Mitterrand, but the upheaval of the past week has now thrown the future into doubt. For many French commentators, Mitterrand is effectively dead, leaving

in its stead a Franco-German alliance. Curiously, the ball has now jumped the channel, giving Britain some say over the future of France. British ratification, an act which the French still devoutly wish for, could be the signal for M Mitterrand's retirement, some commentators say.

M Mitterrand is expected to ask Mr Major, when he visits Paris in a few days time ahead of the Birmingham summit, how France can help overcome parliamentary objections to the treaty and defuse the tension with Bonn. His ministers still insist there can be no question of endorsing a two-speed Europe, though privately many see this as a *fait accompli*.

With the referendum over, and M Mitterrand aged nearly 76, ailing and unpopular, the air of *fin de régime* has thickened. Even his erstwhile friends have their knives out. Max Gallo, the leftwing writer whom M Mitterrand appointed as his official spokesman in the mid-1980s, drew laughter from a radio studio audience yesterday by depicting the president as Louis XIV, a Sun King surrounded by courtiers and estranged from his people.

Reinforcing the monarchical feel of the late Mitterrand era, hundreds of members of the public tramped through the normally closed salons of the Elysée Palace, admitted in an annual heritage day organised by Jack Lang, the culture minister.

With M Mitterrand's every gesture and word being dissected, it seemed odd normal that *Le Point*, the newsmagazine, should report that he had taken to "meditating on the destiny of men in their winter of their lives".

The president had recently delivered a dazzling rumination on the death of René Descartes, it said. The great thinker caught a chill after a drunken night with the Queen of Sweden.



Democratic choice: Emil Constantinescu, the Democratic Convention's candidate opposing the incumbent President Iliescu in Romania's general election, casting his vote in Bucharest yesterday.

Western diplomats and Romanian intellectuals are quietly hoping that Mr Constantinescu will oust Mr Iliescu, thus vanquishing what they see as Romania's continuing legacy of the Ceausescu era, Adam Le Bor

writes from Snagov. Analysts predict that the most likely result will be that the presidential contest will go to a second round ballot in two weeks. A poll of polls put the two almost neck and neck, at just over 30 per cent, with the extreme nationalist Gheorghe Funari trailing at just over 8 per cent.

But whatever the Western observers and Bucharest sophisticates are hoping for, the results of the election

will be decided in Romania's rich agricultural heartlands and its industrial cities. Here voters are concerned not so much with esoteric philosophical notions of increasing political freedom, but with more basic concerns: namely work and food.

Snagov, a picturesque village 30 miles from Bucharest, lies on a scenic lakeside shore, where the Ceausescus' private palace still

stands and their yacht, complete with conference room and bar, is available now for tourist trips. In the last election the village, like over 80 per cent of the population, voted for Ion Iliescu as president, but now the poor state of the Romanian economy, increasing unemployment combined with a free media giving voters information on which they can make an informed choice, mean that the result could be wide open.

Amato in threat to step down

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

GIULIANO Amato, the Italian prime minister, is to have emergency talks with trade union leaders today after giving a warning that "I will pack my bags" if the country rejects his 1993 austerity budget, intended to deal with what he described as Italy's worst crisis since 1946.

The fragile four-party coalition government led by Signor Amato, a Socialist, faced another difficult test yesterday during local elections in which half a million Italians were eligible to vote. Attention was focused on the northern city of Mantua, where the devolutionist Lombardy League was expected to achieve a stunning victory over the government parties. The neo-fascist Italian Social Movement was also expected to make gains in the election.

Signor Amato has shrugged off a series of trade union protests against his austerity package, including a demonstration by 200,000 pensioners in Rome on Saturday to protest against proposed reforms in Italy's generous state retirement system. "This [budget] manoeuvre is necessary and inevitable," he told *La*



Amato: Italy is facing its "worst crisis"

Repubblica newspaper, "If parliament disorients I will pack my bags."

On Saturday, Bruno Trentin, the popular trade union leader, said the union movement would stage one or more one-day general strikes if Signor Amato did not revise proposed deep cuts in health and social security spending. Today's meeting between Signor Amato and the union leaders is the latest in a series aimed at defusing an historic agreement reached in July, abolishing a 47-year-old sliding scale wage indexation scheme that has been a chief cause of inflation.

● Vatican revolt: The Pope returned to the Vatican yesterday to face a potential revolt over low pay by some of its disgruntled employees. At the weekend the Association of Lay Vatican Employees, representing about half the Vatican's 2,000 non-clerical workers, resigned in protest against what is called "intransigence" by senior prelates over workers' requests. It was the boldest action ever taken by the association and could lead to the first real strike in the history of the Holy See. (Reuters)

Russian soldiers are taken hostage

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

RIVAL groups in Tajikistan's civil conflict yesterday took hostage Russian troops and threatened to kill them unless they handed over weapons. A move which heightened fears that Russian forces could be drawn into the fighting in the Central Asian republic.

A spokesman for the Russian defence ministry confirmed that a group of some 30 soldiers, including the unit commander, were taken hostage from their base in the village of Lomonosov in the Kurgan-Tyube region where battles between forces loyal to the ousted pro-communist President Nabyev and opposing pro-Islam fighters are continuing.

The attackers threatened to kill the captured members of the anti-aircraft regiment unless tanks at the base were destroyed and surrounded the garrison with guards who took away 12 rockets and demanded access to the base in search of heavy weaponry.

The deputy commander of the Russian garrison in Tajikistan flew to Lomonosov in an attempt to free his men and Mukhrin Ashurov, spokesman for the Russian division in Dushanbe, said later that the commander and some of the men had been released.

The Russian command is unable to move in reinforcements to defend the base as the bridge across the Valsir river has been blown up. Several

public buildings in Kurgan-Tyube are reported to have been destroyed in the fighting.

In a separate incident in Kujab, the stronghold of pro-Nabyev clans, forces were reported to have seized four tanks, two armoured carriers and several officers from a Russian base in a retaliatory move.

Both sides in the conflict are keen to gain access to heavy weaponry, tanks and armoured personnel carriers kept on the former Soviet bases in the republic. The fighting which has left several hundred dead has been fuelled hitherto by the influx of arms across the Afghan border, but the warring factions are now seeking extra fire power to effect territorial gains, moving the republic closer to all-out civil war.

President Nabyev, a former communist loyal to Moscow, was forced to resign at gunpoint this month, to the dismay of Russia which had hoped to support him in office to keep the pro-Islam opposition at bay. Islamic fundamentalism is gaining ground in the republic which has close historical ties with Iran.

The soldiers' capture adds to the risk that the conflict could draw in the Russians who have avoided siding militarily with either group other than by their political support for President Nabyev.

Swiss back Europe tunnel link

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SWISS voters yesterday gave a boost to the concept of European unity by approving a £7 billion scheme to build two huge rail tunnels under the Alps by a two-thirds majority in a referendum.

Official figures from 17 of the country's 26 cantons or regions showed the electorate 62 to 38 per cent in favour of the New Alpine Rail Axis which will boost Europe's goods traffic and Swiss hopes of European integration. The project involves boring through 50 miles of alpine granite to provide an environmentally acceptable way of supporting the European Community's heavy goods traffic by putting it on trains.

The "yes" vote endorsed a commitment by the Swiss government to the EC during tortuous negotiations to set up the European Economic Area, a 19-nation common market embracing the EC and seven other countries.

A "no" would have forced the government to go back on its word, and jeopardised the planned January 1 starting date for the economic area. It would also have cast doubt on Swiss voters' readiness to ratify the economic area itself in another referendum on December 6.

Much of the EC's transit traffic currently takes longer routes through neighbouring France and Austria because of long-standing resistance from the population of Switzerland's narrow alpine valleys to yet more noise and fumes. Until now, Switzerland has stubbornly maintained a 28-tonne weight limit on goods lorries compared with a European norm of 40 tonnes or more.

With their "yes" voters signalled they had accepted the government's view that the rising tide of goods traffic was unstoppable. Instead of keeping the heavy lorries out, the government argued it made sense to minimise their impact on the sensitive alpine environment by building rail tunnels. It also extracted a commitment from the EC to put all its 40-tonne lorries on trains until capacity was exhausted.

Report says Germany heading for recession

BY IAN MURRAY

HELMUT Kohl, the German chancellor, is preparing to celebrate ten years in power on Thursday against a background of German economic gloom, doubts over European union and worsening Anglo-German relations.

The post-unification German economy is moving swiftly into recession with little sign of an upturn, according to a confidential government report. The study, prepared for the economics ministry, predicts negative growth and unemployment above five million as early as next year.

Against this background, the chancellor is pushing for ratification of the Maastricht treaty. He fears his dream of European union will be more difficult to realise in a time of recession. Domestic opinion polls show support turning against Maastricht.

In his speech to the Bundestag on Friday, Herr Kohl could scarcely disguise his dismay that Britain currently holds the presidency of the

European Community, and Denmark is to follow. The two countries seemingly with the least commitment to his kind of Europe are running affairs just when he believes the greatest commitment to the EC is necessary.

Herr Kohl was disappointed at Maastricht when John Major succeeded in negotiating a opt-out clause for Britain on monetary union and blocked the social charter Germany enthusiastically supports. Britain also led opposition to the chancellor's plan for a joint European immigration strategy. The troubled Eurofighter project has been a further cause of tension.

More recently Norman Lamont's criticism of Bundesbank policy stung Herr Kohl. The currency crisis has led to more speculation of a two-track Europe in which Britain would be relegated to the second division. If Maastricht is not ratified, Herr Kohl knows that the European union he longs for is unlikely

in his lifetime.

There are also Anglo-German strains over the legacy of the second world war. The monument to Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris caused outrage and incomprehension in Germany, scarcely mollified by the Queen's agreement to visit Dresden next month for a service of reconciliation. German papers comment that their British counterparts persist in playing up stories of the Nazi past and exaggerating the neo-Nazi present.

Yesterday's economic report offers a sober assessment that world confidence in the mark may be misplaced. Friedrich Ost, chairman of the Bundestag's economic committee, said yesterday that after many years of growth the economy now looked as though it was going into reverse. There was a 1 per cent growth rate for the united country this year, he said, but this was only because a full order book in the first quarter of the year had held up the figure.

V2 town hails space age success

Ian Murray reports from Peenemünde, a German symbol of pride and shame

DESPITE British anger at plans to celebrate the anniversary of the first successful launch of a V2 rocket, the people of Peenemünde see the event as a means of bringing much needed attention and cash to a depressed and remote corner of eastern Germany. The "space centre" is the area's main tourist attraction and any publicity which brings more visitors is welcome.

That the anniversary coincides with the new holiday to mark German unification is a bonus. The museum is a schizophrenic symbol of German pride and shame. A tree-filled bomb crater left by the RAF is the first "exhibit". The local guides, after years of anti-Nazi teaching by the communists, are well aware that research here killed thousands of innocent people. The bomb crater sets the tone for tourists, who tend to leave looking thoughtful and not triumphant.

Nobody thumbing through the well-used visitors' book at the space centre here can

believe for a moment that Germany is in imminent danger of a neo-Nazi takeover. Since unification closed down the East German air force base here, the Peenemünde site has attracted over 100,000 visitors and every day more arrive to see where space travel began nearly 50 years ago.

The visitors are drawn to see "the birthplace of space travel". They stay to study exhibits showing the misery and death caused by the V1 and V2 rockets, which were developed here. The visitors' book shows that they do not gloat at Nazi technological triumph but regret Nazi atrocities.

"Space, yes. War, no," writes Krista from Berlin. "This is nothing to be proud of. We must never forget that," says Berndt from Dortmund. "We suffered most because of this," comments Karl from Dresden.

Heinrich Waldow, from Cologne, was studying the display cabinets with something close to incredulity. "Maybe we were the first to send a rocket into space," he said. "But the world remembers us for our death camps."

He pointed to a notice by a photograph showing a V2 rocket. "25,000 died through the misuse of enormous scientific performance," the caption reads. "Those thugs in Rostock cannot make that happen again," he added.

The anniversary of the first space flight coincides with that of German unification two years ago but there are no local plans so far to mark the event. "Building the V2 destroyed our village," commented one guide. "Unification has destroyed our jobs. What is there to celebrate?"

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN push for world drug court

New York: A UN committee of jurists is proposing the creation of an international criminal court to try drug barons, war criminals and terrorists (James Bone writes).

After three years of study the International Law Commission concludes in a report to the general assembly that such a court would be workable. It has drawn up a blueprint outlining how the court should function and now seeks permission from UN members to start drafting a statute establishing the new court.

The commission's work, initiated by Trinidad and Tobago because of its fear that the legal systems of small states cannot cope with big-time drug dealers, has received added impetus from the allegations of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. But diplomats say the new court will take at least five years to set up.

Three die in new floods

Caracas: Three people died and three others were missing after torrential rain caused flooding in the foothills of the French Pyrenees. At Remens-les-Bains the Sals river burst its banks destroying two bridges, houses and a hotel. Relief operations were hampered by flooded roads.

The new floods came after a deluge which killed an estimated 78 people in the south-eastern region of Vaucluse last Tuesday. In those floods, 38 people died, and 40 are missing, presumed dead. (AFP)

Brazil debate

São Paulo: The corruption scandal engulfing President Collor de Mello of Brazil, which could lead to his impeachment, will come to a head today with a vote at the end of a congressional debate on charges that he sold government favours. (Reuters)

Arms moved

Baghdad: UN inspectors flew to the main Iraqi chemical facility at Muthana and verified that munitions which were missing from other sites had been moved there. (Reuters)

Spy named

Washington: Ryszard Kuklinski, a Polish army colonel, gave America more than 35,000 documents in the 1970s about Soviet and Warsaw Pact secrets. The Washington Post said. (Reuters)

Wallace critical

Montgomery: George Wallace, 73, the former Alabama governor who renounced his segregationist views, remained in a critical condition after suffering heart failure. (AP)

Damp spot

Delhi: Mawsynkam, a hill station in the remote northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya, is the rainiest place on Earth with 467.4ins annually, according to new statistics, beating Mount Waialeale in Hawaii. (AFP)

Bérégovoy gives in to lorry drivers over penalty system

BY CHARLES BREMNER

French drivers recovered a little of their *old joie de vivre* over the weekend after the government backed down on the licence penalty system which sparked the lorry drivers' insurrection of the early summer and has since saved 300 lives.

In a step which officially has nothing to do with forthcoming general elections and a promised mutiny by the lorry drivers next week, the transport ministry softened the more draconian aspects of the *permis a points* (licence points) and raised the speed limit for heavy lorries.

From now on, for example, Frenchmen will be allowed to

reverse up motorways three times instead of twice before losing their licences. Instead of having six points to lose, drivers now have 12. Lesser offences, such as driving on the median strip or speeding up to 30 kph over the limit have been downgraded, although vehicle homicide and drink-driving still strips drivers of half their points.

Drivers who have lost their licences will no longer have to take the test again, provided they have been driving for three years. They will just have to pass a written paper. Taxi drivers and motorists' organisations cheered the news that Pierre Bérégovoy,

the prime minister, had given way over a scheme which the French saw as a despot's attack on their liberty. However, it was denounced by two opposing forces — the lorry drivers and safety organisations. The safety lobby is upset because the climbdown came only a day after the government reported a spectacular fall in the carnage on French roads since the scheme was introduced on July 1. Fatal accidents dropped nearly 20 per cent. "Only" 789 people were killed in August, the lowest figure for any August since 1956, when there was a quarter the number of cars on

the road. The government said about 300 people statistically owed their lives to the effect of the scheme. Police reported that they had come in for a tide of abuse over the summer, but motoring offences dropped by about 20 per cent. Safety measures in recent years have brought the death toll under 10,000 per year, a figure which is still double that of Britain, which has comparable traffic volume.

One accident prevention spokesman said: "Softening the scheme is saying it's all right to drive dangerously. It's the wrong message."

The lorry drivers are upset because they had demanded a full retraction. "They're talking us for fools," said Hervé, one of the bosses of the multitude of *roulier* organisations. "They'll learn when we block the roads again next week."

Several big drivers' groups have called for a new blockade if the government fails to answer their demands for a special "professional" licence system by next week. The government has however gone some way to appeasing the drivers. M Bérégovoy, for example, held a much-publicised meeting with "Tarzan", one of the colourful

Paris knights of the road. The announcement of a softer penalty system was accompanied by a rise in the speed limit for lorries. The heaviest trucks will now be able to travel at 90kph instead of 80kph on motorways.

The government modified the scheme on the recommendation of a commission, which found, among other things that the truckers had felt humiliated by the prospect of having to sit a new driving test after losing their licences. The scheme had also run into legal trouble. A provincial magistrates' court last week ruled it unconstitutional.

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Buthlezi denounces ANC-Pretoria deal and pulls out of talks

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

CHIEF Mangosuthu Buthe, chief minister of KwaZulu and leader of the main Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party, yesterday rejected out of hand the settlement painfully put together by President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, at their summit meeting in Johannesburg at the weekend.

The vehemence of the Zulu leader's statement is a measure of the risk that Mr de Klerk has taken in yielding so much to the ANC and obtaining so little in return in order to get Mr Mandela and his movement back to the negotiating table. He also risks a similar backlash from his white constituency.

Chief Buthe formally withdrew his government and his party from the constitutional negotiations which South Africans devoutly hope will now resume. "I will withdraw both the KwaZulu and the IFP participation from further discussions with the government until I have had the opportunity to consult widely on the way forward," he said. "My view now is that negotiation for the future constitution cannot go ahead."

Announcing that he, his government and his party would now refuse to be bound by the de Klerk-Mandela agreement, he rejected virtual-

ly every aspect of it (except the freeing of political prisoners) and added: "I declare that any laws which the South African government may be able to pilot through parliament giving legal effect to bilateral agreements between itself and the ANC, will be rejected as spurious and illegitimate by the IFP and the KwaZulu government."

In particular the two agreements relating to the securing of migrant hostels in the black townships, and the carrying of dangerous weapons in public are rejected by Dr Buthe as aimed specifically at Zulus. The agreement will allow the carrying of traditional weapons by prior agreement with a retired judge, but Dr Buthe said that he personally would "never ever under any circumstances ever ask anybody for permission to carry a Zulu cultural weapon."

Dr Buthe rejected the agreement between the ANC and the government over the constitutional future of the country, dismissing the right of the two to settle matters between themselves, saying that there had to be a multi-party negotiation. In particular he rejected the notion of an elected assembly becoming the constitution-making body for the country, asserting that violence and intimidation would make free and fair elections impossible, and that the majority party in an elected assembly would write a constitution to serve its own political interests.

Mr de Klerk is now also facing problems from his own followers. "Backlash is certain as political murderers walk free," is a headline in Johannesburg's *Sunday Star*, and John Maderman, the writer of the leader-page article, proclaims that there are "many who are filled with revulsion at political atrocities and who believe that people such as necklaced murderers and bombers must pay the full penalty. They will believe de Klerk has sold out."

Elsewhere the paper reports the unrepentant remarks of two black killers who were released from Pretoria central

jail on Saturday. They were both sentenced to long prison terms for necklacing impimpi (police informers).

"I felt happy watching him burn," said George Skosana, who spent two years on death row for his crime. He added: "I would do it again if necessary." His cell mate, Lucky Malaza, said of his victim: "He was an impimpi and deserved to die."

He described the killing to the *Star* reporter. "By using force we got him to confess," he said. "We put the tyre around him, poured petrol on him and lit a match. He screamed and screamed and tried to pull the tyre off, but could not. I looked at his face. It was like meat. He took a long time to die."

The prisons department reported yesterday that many people had been phoning the department to protest at the impending release of Robert McBride, who exploded a car-bomb outside a crowded beachfront cafe in Durban in 1986. Three young women died, and almost 70 people were injured.

McBride has become a cause célèbre with the ANC, which has regarded his release as a crucial test of the government's good faith. He and two black officers of the ANC armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe, the Spear of the Nation, sentenced for killing whites with mines, will be freed today. McBride has said that he has now renounced violence.

The *Star* says that for all his concessions to the ANC, Mr de Klerk "has received nothing in return — yet — except the reopened negotiations."

The question of a general amnesty, which ministers like Kobie Coetsee, the justice minister, fought for in return for the release of the political prisoners, was denied by Mr Mandela and his team at the talks. The government request that the ANC call off its mass action programme in return for these concessions was not granted either.

Inkatha rally, page 1
R. W. Johnson, page 12



Election fever: young supporters of President dos Santos cheering at a rally in Luanda, the Angolan capital, yesterday. The country's first free elections are being held tomorrow amid growing fears that Dr Savimbi's guerrilla force has not transformed into a political party

Savimbi rhetoric raises poll tension

FROM SAM KILEY IN LUANDA

JONAS Savimbi chose Luanda, the capital, for his last speech before tomorrow's Angolan elections. But his 12-minute address at the weekend went not with a bang but a whisper because the president of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) was hoarse and fired after ten days on the campaign trail.

Over the past fortnight he had been disinguing out threatening rhetoric which, combined with an increase in violent incidents between his supporters and those of the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), had unnerved even the Americans who backed him in his 16-year armed

struggle against the government. But at the weekend he seemed almost conciliatory as he contented himself with branding the residents of Futunga, the presidential palace, as "liars and cheats".

Foreign observers agree that Dr Savimbi, as head of the most cohesive party in Angola, holds the key to the country's future. But they have been concerned that his brilliant and disciplined guerrilla movement still has not really changed into a political party since last year's ceasefire.

Dr Savimbi insists that, while corrupt ministers in President dos Santos's cabinet will be in trouble if he wins this week, the president

himself as well as basic democratic freedoms will be "fully respected". But his own followers show little understanding of these concepts. In Jamba last week, 90 of his men boarded a US C130 Hercules for Luanda after queuing in silence under baking sun. They travelled "home" in silence and remained evasive about their hopes, aims, ambitions and past activities. But one did confess that he had been "ordered to Luanda to vote".

This discipline may prove difficult for the formation of Angola's new national army and makes observers suspicious about what Dr Savimbi will do if he loses.

The Armed Forces of Ango-

la (FAA) yesterday officially took over command of Unita's Fala and the MPLA's Fapla soldiers and will be responsible for demobilising those who are not absorbed into the combined force under Portuguese, British and French advisers. "If there is trouble over the coming weeks, I am in no doubt that soldiers will not stay loyal to the FAA but return to their original units, especially the Unita guys," a member of the training mission said.

Dr Savimbi is weak in Luanda, widely believed to be an MPLA stronghold certain to vote for the President dos Santos. The weekend Unita rally here was attended by only 10,000 people.

Martial law lifted in Burma

BY DAVID WATTS
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE Burmese government has lifted martial law in an attempt to improve its image with the international community during the current session of the United Nations General Assembly.

But although the abolition will remove the dreaded military "kangaroo courts", it will also take away the only legitimate legal structure now in place and leave the people even more at the mercy of a government which, in any event, does not control vast tracts of the country.

The announcement by the Rangoon government is the latest in a series of measures designed to improve Burma's image. Although about 400 detainees have been released, the government is no nearer to permitting a semblance of democracy.

During the May 1990 elections, in which Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition National League for Democracy won 80 per cent of the votes — and was then prevented from taking office — there were 27 legal political parties. There are now only seven and many of the opposition's leading figures remain in jail or under house arrest, including Daw Suu Kyi herself.

The regime is now so isolated internationally as to have lost even a modicum of support from China. Peking did not oppose the appointment of a special UN rapporteur who will visit Rangoon and report back to the general assembly. That will result in a very public washing of Rangoon's dirty linen unless the report pulls a lot of punches.

Paradoxically, the lifting of martial law also reflects the regime's confidence at home, four years after the military coup. The armed forces are better equipped than ever.

Leading article, page 13

Israel gets huge US arsenal

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

AMERICA has granted Israel hundreds of millions of dollars in military hardware, apparently dooming the Middle East to a new cycle in its decades-old arms race.

The arms package, partly as compensation for an impending multibillion-dollar sale of US arms to Saudi Arabia, is in addition to the \$1.8 billion (\$1.05 billion) in US military aid that Israel already receives. The new deal came to light on Saturday when a White House spokesman, travelling with President Bush in Ohio, confirmed that Israel would soon receive some of the most sophisticated equipment in the US arsenal.

Officials confirmed that, in keeping with America's determination to safeguard Israel's "qualitative military edge" in the region, the Jewish state would receive 24 Apache attack helicopters and ten Blackhawk transport helicopters worth \$700 million in total. In addition America has agreed to position about \$200 million worth of dual-use equipment, including Patriot anti-aircraft missiles, modern artillery shells and air-to-air missiles, in Israel. This arsenal would be used either by Israel, if it is attacked, or by US forces if they are mobilised to the region.

America's gift, dubbed a "Jewish new year's present" by the Israeli press, was intended largely to offset fears in Israel and among the Jewish lobby in America about the proposed sale of 72 F15 fighters, worth an estimated \$13 billion, to Saudi Arabia. Although the two arms deals are expected to be well-received in America, where defence manufacturers have been hit by a drop in demand, the influx of more military hardware to an already heavily armed region could adversely affect the efforts being made at multilateral arms-control talks.

The military escalation is likely to provoke an angry reaction throughout the Arab world.

● **Marjayoun, Lebanon:** Guerrillas exploded a mine near an Israeli armoured patrol in south Lebanon yesterday and security sources said a tank was destroyed. The Islamic Resistance, a coalition of pro-Iranian groups led by Hezbollah, claimed responsibility for the explosion in Israel's self-declared security zone inside Lebanon.

The guerrilla group said there were "human and material losses among the enemy", but the security forces did not mention casualties. Official military sources in Israel denied that the blast caused either injuries or damage.

An official of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia was seriously wounded by a bomb when he opened the door of his house on Saturday, the security sources said. Hezbollah was blamed for the attack, also in the security zone. (Reuters)



Lizabeth Russ: way open for adoption

Furore over child 'divorce'

BY BEN MACINTYRE

A LANDMARK decision by a Florida judge allowing a 12-year-old boy to "divorce" his parents has prompted a bitter and highly political debate in America over the legal rights of children and what some see as the weakening of traditional family ties in America.

On Friday, Judge Thomas Kirk approved a request by Gregory Kingsley to end the parental rights of his mother, Rachel, 30, clearing the way for the boy to be adopted by George and Lizabeth Russ, a Mormon couple who have been his foster parents since last October.

Supporters of the verdict say that in too many custody cases children are not properly consulted and are forced to accept decisions that lawyers, guardians, social workers and other adults consider to be in their best interests.

But others have argued that the case has weakened a principle in which the maintenance of the biological family should be paramount. There are also fears, principally on the Republican right, that the decision could open the way for other children to sue their parents on comparatively trivial grounds.

Before the Republican Convention, the party's national committee chairman criticised the wife of Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton, referring to her as "that champion of the family, Hillary Clinton, who believes that kids should be able to sue their parents rather than helping with the chores".

Bush's rail tour fails to build up steam in Ohio

Disenchantment with the president is clear even in the conservative Midwest, writes Martin Fletcher on the *Spirit of America*

PICKERINGTON Tigers high school band played *Jesus Christ, Superstar* as President Bush stood on the observation platform of his campaign train to declare: "It's all aboard, America."

With squealing wheels, the *Spirit of America* pulled out of a Columbus, Ohio, goods yard to start a 233-mile weekend odyssey through that critical state and equally important Michigan. Nobody could recall when Mr Bush last travelled in anything other than a limousine, helicopter or jet, but these are desperate times. The aim was to evoke Harry Truman's 21,928-mile "give 'em hell" whistle-stop tour that snatched victory from defeat in 1948.

Several hours and thousands of cornfields later, the *Spirit of America* stopped at a town still backing Mr Bush. If forced into premature retirement this November, the president will cherish the memory of this first presidential visit to Arlington, Ohio. The population surrounded its trackside baseball field with tractors, hay bales and apple stalls, festooned it with bunting and

greeted the *Spirit of America* with a sea of waving flags.

Mr Bush and his wife, Barbara, plunged into a delirious crowd. They cut a gigantic birthday cake for Arlington's three centenarians. The band played *God Bless America*. The United States was "the greatest, freest country on the face of the earth", Mr Bush thundered. He would not let Bill Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, tear it down. He would not let his opponent weaken the American family or levy new taxes "aimed right at the heart of Middle America", he would "blow the whistle on Bill".

The crowd roared, and Mr Bush's campaign looked to be building up steam. The problem was that Arlington has a population of just 1,000 and is possibly the most conservative community in all Ohio.

"There is a Democrat — we know where he lives," a town

stalwart joked. The picture is less rosy for Mr Bush elsewhere in Ohio, without whose 21 electoral college votes no Republican has ever won the White House.

The disenchantment was discernible in the knots of people gathered at every crossroads to see the train. These were not the excited crowds that waited for hours to glimpse Mr Clinton and Al Gore, his running mate, on their bus trips, not a populace rushing to greet its leader.

Some people waved flags, but most just watched. Among the pro-Bush placards — "I'm pulling for you," proclaimed a dairy farmer — were others saying "107,000 Ohio jobs derailed" and "Bush-Quayle: off the track". One man dropped his trousers and "mooned" at the train.

In the town of Bowling Green students dressed as chickens protested at Mr

Bush's refusal to debate with Mr Clinton. In semi-industrial Marysville, Mr Bush doffed his jacket to address another big crowd, but unlike Truman he lacks the common touch. Like the public address system, he only spasmodically connected. The applause as he attacked Mr Clinton was more dutiful than spontaneous.

Voters on the edge of the crowd began drifting away before the speech was over. Tim Holloway, a plastics factory employee who supported Mr Bush in 1988, hoped to be convinced but left disappointed. "I wanted to hear more of what he's planning on doing and less of what Clinton's going to do," he complained.

Even Mr Bush's supporters confessed to lukewarm belief there's anyone much better right now," said Julie Britton, a housewife. ● Dallas: Ross Perot blithely refrained from clarifying his political ambitions yesterday and gave no further hints as to whether he will re-enter the race for the White House (Jamie Dettmer writes). Mr Perot's aides discounted reports that he would announce

his candidacy tonight but admitted privately that they could not even hazard a guess as to which way the maverick Texan billionaire would jump.

There can be little doubt that the leaders of Mr Perot's United We Stand political organisation, which he set up and financed after quitting the race in July, will tell the businessman at a meeting today at a Dallas hotel that he should run. But the invitations Mr Perot extended on Friday to President Bush and Mr Clinton to send emissaries to speak at the meeting would seem to indicate that he has not yet made a decision to return to a contest he so abruptly left 74 days ago.

Two opinion polls published yesterday, which both suggest that even in a three-way race the Arkansas governor would win, may well make Mr Perot think twice about a comeback. They both have Mr Perot trailing in third place. Two-thirds of those polled for a *Time* magazine survey said Mr Perot should not resume his presidential campaign.

Leading article, page 13

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Ben Macintyre

Literati agog as first edition hits the street

New York's chattering classes have reached a peak of volubility, and small knots of novelists and poets have retreated to the darker corners of the literary world to fret and ponder on the possible end of life as they knew it.

Today sees the publication of the first issue of *The New Yorker*, bible to New Yorkers of a certain literary bent, under the editorship of Tina Brown, the exuberant British-born former editor of *Vanity Fair* — a development some consider is just "not right" for New York, or its most famous magazine.

Ms Brown vastly increased the circulation of *Vanity Fair* by a judicious combination of hype, glamour and social commentary. She called her magazine "quintessentially post-modern"; the more staid readers of *The New Yorker* consider Ms Brown's meth-

ods to be quintessentially philistine, and have spent most of the three months since her appointment anticipating a rush down-market in a magazine that has always prided itself on high-brow, deathless and often endless prose.

At one point in the summer Ms Brown says she was getting 16 calls a day from panic-stricken contributors and subscribers afraid that a great literary institution was about to be turned into *Hello Magazine*. Ms Brown has repeatedly denied she will trivialise the magazine and even considered publishing a spoof — *The New Yorker, Not* — to illustrate what she was not going to do to the venerable publication.

Ms Brown has made it her mission to get more people to read the magazine by making it brighter and less turgid. Since many people have bith-

erto found it hard to read *The New Yorker* once, she may be succeeding even before she starts.

A new book about Senator Edward Kennedy, portraying him as a cocaine-user with a truly heroic appetite for food, whisky and wild women, is exactly the sort of subject that the more old-fashioned readers of *The New Yorker* do not want in their magazine.

The Senator, by Richard E. Burke, is remarkable among kiss-and-tell books in that the breath of the kisser reeks almost as badly as the subject. The author, a former aide to the Democratic senator, says he was also a cocaine addict.

In 1981 he was sacked after an elaborate hoax in which he claimed to have received death threats and falsely claimed to have been

shot at by would-be assassins. Shortly after declaring himself bankrupt, Mr Burke received an estimated \$500,000 to write the book about his former employer.

Most of the information in it is second-hand and from anonymous sources, but not entirely shocking given the scandal that has always dogged the youngest Kennedy brother. Senator Kennedy described the book as "an outrageous example of say anything, sell anything, publish anything for a buck... it's a work of fiction".

On Saturday, the senator's new father-in-law, Edmund Reggie, was found guilty of fraud and may go to prison for up to five years. "I find it impossible to believe he could be involved in any misconduct," said Senator Kennedy, adding to the growing list of things he does not believe in.

The CO-OPERATIVE BANK

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Labour pulled both ways

Is the Opposition's new optimism well founded, asks Peter Riddell

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

The leading shadow cabinet member was both elated and worried, as well as distracted by Bryan Gould's resignation. He was elated by John Smith's debating success in the Commons last Thursday, which had raised the morale of Labour MPs higher than he could remember, but he was worried by consequent signs of complacency. So yesterday, while Tony Benn and Dennis Skinner, the now lonely standard-bearers of fundamentalism, went round fringe meetings warning about a new right-wing drive by the leadership, at a parallel series of meetings Gordon Brown and Tony Blair, the most prominent advocates of modernisation, were speaking about an opposite threat. They were afraid Labour might be lulled into a false belief that "one more heaven" would be sufficient for victory and that further changes to the party's structure were no longer needed.

The mood at the start of Labour's conference is strangely different from what might have been expected after the party's fourth election defeat in a row. Until yesterday afternoon's flurry of excitement over Mr Gould — who has been riding for a fall for some time — most of the talk was about the difficulties of the government rather than the Opposition. But how much trouble are the Tories in?

The government is still on the retreat after the humiliating withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism. John Major is in danger of being outflanked. His careful compromise over Europe has come apart and the tensions released are threatening to split the cabinet and Tory MPs. Labour also has its divisions on Europe, as the Gould affair underlines, but these matter much less because the party is not in government.

It is hard to see how Mr Major can reconcile his desire to put Britain "at the very heart of Europe" by ratifying the Maastricht agreement, with the growth of Tory opposition to the treaty. Similarly, the support of the cabinet majority for early re-entry to the ERM is being undermined by Norman Lamont's shift of approach of the past 10 days and by the hostility of a sizeable minority of Tory MPs to sterling's return. Floating also threatens the Tories' previous assumption that the economic and political cycles would be in synch by the time of the next election. Inflation may be rising again in the mid-1990s and a squeeze and higher interest rates may be needed. So there may be pressure to hold an early election, say in 1995.

Each way that Mr Major looks there is a minefield. It is going to be hard to get to the other side while preserving the unity both of the EC and of his own party. But it is not impossible. Some of the more fevered muttering about Mr Major's leadership is absurd. He did, after all, lead the Tories to an election victory against the odds less

than six months ago. And he has been careful to involve the cabinet in recent decisions. Mr Major's authority has obviously been severely shaken, but he has time to recover.

So Messrs Brown and Blair are right to be cautious about the longer-term results of Thursday's debate. The past 10 days may have been a turning point but they could just be a particularly rocky patch forgotten by the time of the election. Labour's tactical advantage may not turn into a strategic advantage.

The depth of Labour's underlying predicament is illustrated by a survey of the views of wavering voters in five marginal seats in the South East. This was carried out by GMA Monitor for a new Fabian Society report, *Southern Discomfort*, by Giles Radice. The study was based on discussions with C1/C2 men and women (white-collar and skilled manual workers) aged between 25 and 50, all of whom had seriously considered voting Labour but who, in the end, voted Tory. These people, many new homeowners since 1979, saw Labour as dominated by unpopular politicians, producing few benefits for themselves, weak

'A turning point it may be, but Labour's advantage may not turn into a strategic advance'

incompetent on the economy and proposing government handouts for the underperforming. They wanted change and saw their new-found prosperity of the 1980s as fragile, but regarded Labour as the party likely to "take things away" and not to appreciate their ambitions, while the Tories were trusted and seen as encouraging upward mobility.

As Mr Radice concludes, Labour has failed to take account of the aspirations of these waverers and convince them the party is on their side. He argues that Labour can "no longer find salvation as a class- or trade-union-dominated party". Instead, it should be the party of the individual citizen against vested interests: one that can manage capitalism better than the Tories. All that implies Labour needs to make radical changes in its organisation and policy, to overhaul its relations with the trade unions and to revise its traditional approach to public spending and taxation.

But there is one respect in which Labour leaders can draw real comfort from recent events. As the survey shows, the party has suffered heavily from the widespread view that the Tories are more competent at managing the economy and the pound. That claim now looks rather shaky, even though the parties have similar approaches to the ERM. If Labour can succeed in making the charge stick that the Tories are the party of economic incompetence and devaluation, then it may begin to make longer-term gains.

The ANC leader's generalship is the key to peace, writes R.W. Johnson in South Africa

Mandela's challenge

The reopening of talks between Nelson Mandela and President de Klerk has come not a moment too soon. Ever since the constitutional negotiations broke up in disarray in June the deterioration in South Africa's economic and political climate has been headlong.

The talks broke down over a technical dispute about the parliamentary majority required to amend the constitution, but the more radical elements within the ANC-Communist party alliance quickly assumed the upper hand with their claim that the government had not been negotiating in good faith and that the way ahead lay through mass action rather than negotiation. This cleavage was greatly strengthened by the Boipatong massacre: the more moderate elements within the ANC became virtually invisible, their influence marginalised, and even their positions within the movement sometimes under threat.

The result has been a long, dry winter of mass action and an increasing tempo of political violence. Last month alone 195 people died in political clashes of one sort or another, bringing the year's total to 1,200.

The government, which had quickly conceded all the points that

had blocked constitutional agreement in June, now found itself dealing with an opponent whose demands changed from week to week, which spoke in a cacophony of angry voices, and which seemed not only unwilling to negotiate but actually incapable of doing so. On at least one occasion the ANC's secretary-general, Cyril Ramaphosa, successfully negotiated a deal on all the movement's outstanding demands only to find the deal thrown back in his face by the ANC's divided inner cabinet. Mr Ramaphosa intimated privately that he had never disliked a job so much and that he would be happier back in a private law practice.

As mass action, strikes and violence dragged on, business confidence fell back, investment from foreigners dumped South African shares. House prices collapsed at the top end of the market and in August alone consumer spending fell by 11 per cent. Bankruptcies and redundancies soared and the growth rate, earlier forecast at a miserable minus 0.7 per cent, was adjusted to minus 2 per cent. Black

unemployment grew by leaps and bounds and, for the first time, white beggars were common on streets.

On top of all that one of the worst droughts in memory ravaged crops and pushed the country into food deficit. While general inflation stuck obstinately at 15 per cent, food price inflation rose to over 30 per cent. The result was more and more desperate and hungry people, potential recruits for mass action but also for crime and sheer hopelessness. Morale collapsed: opinion polls showed that 45 per cent of English-speaking whites (and 10 per cent of Afrikaners) were considering emigration, while not a few of the black professional classes began to mutter about similar intentions.

As the ANC's mass action campaign rolled on, increasing divisions appeared within its ranks. The movement's different regional branches began to take militant initiatives of their own, often in flagrant breach of the National Peace Accord which their national leadership had signed.

Mr Mandela's leadership came

under personal challenge for the first time, from the Communist party's Moses Mayekiso. Mr Mandela himself wandered lengthily abroad, incongruously attending the Olympics even as violence intensified. His penchant for telling his host — be it Mitterrand, Gaddafi or Castro — what they wanted to hear often made for peculiar reading. In Tehran, for example, Mr Mandela announced that Ayatollah Khomeini's revolution was the model the South African masses wished to repeat in their own country, a statement greeted at home alternatively with stupefaction or airy dismissal.

Then came the shock of the Bisho massacre, and for the first time Mr Mandela, in a statement of great depth and dignity, showed a proper recognition of how serious the situation had become. A hasty deal was patched together over the release of political prisoners — the country yawning as men convicted for needless murders went free, cheerfully saying they'd do it again — but in the end Saturday's summit took place, allowing Mr de

Klerk and Mr Mandela to emerge with a reaffirmation of their commitment to reconciliation and negotiation.

A great deal now depends on Mr Mandela's leadership. To general relief the ANC has promised to review its programme of mass action, and there should soon be a coalition interim government to oversee the first universal-suffrage elections. But if this deal is to hold together, and if South Africa is not to resume its downward slide into chaos and potential civil war, Mr Mandela will need to impose his authority on his movement in a firmly presidential style.

In order to break through divisions within the ANC and to bring some of his more hot-headed militants to heel, Mr Mandela may need simply to take the lead and then demand a vote of confidence from his executive, a tactic which he probably has the personal standing to carry off.

That is, though, a tall order for a man of 74 years, 27 of them spent in jail. And it is difficult to see how such an act of presidential assertion can be made unless Mr Mandela stays at home rather more: not the least of the urgency behind the summit derived from the fact that on Wednesday he is off on yet another two-week foreign tour.

Ascent of a three-star angel

Bernard Levin celebrates the life and lunch of a great French chef

I have a message for whichever of the saints is on doorknocker duty at the Pearly Gates tonight. There will be a very faint tap, and the most modest of coughs, to announce a new arrival; his modesty, I assure you, is entirely genuine. But please will you let him in without questions about his ability to maintain himself financially (yes, but not lavishly or with extravagance), for it is Jacques Pic who knocks. Jacques Pic who, shockingly, died a mere 60 years old, Jacques Pic who gave so many innocent pleasure to so many people for so long, and whatever the hour the bells must ring a peal of welcome, homage, delight, perseverance, integrity and joy. He will, however, be beside himself with embarrassment at the celebrations, trying to hide behind a cloud and begging the angels to stop the cheering. For when he can get a word in, it will amount only to "I did my best". And so he did.

Jacques Pic was the son of one of France's greatest modern chefs, restaurateurs, André Pic, his mother, Sophie, started the great line with a simple restaurant and taught her son her *métier*. André subsequently moved the restaurant to Valence, where it still stands. Valence is a sleepy little town just south of Lyon, and he worked until he got the coveted Michelin star; then he went on to the second star, and at last the third. But then tragedy struck. Pic père found the strain of keeping his standards so high more than he could manage: illness resulted, and he lost the third star, then the second. Finally, he could do no more, which is where Jacques came in. Jacques had not wanted to follow his father into the restaurant-chef business (his passion was motor cars); but as the noble empire crumbled he decided that he must rebuild it. His father retired, and Jacques fought his way back: the second star

was gained, and then the third. That is where I came in.

In 1984, I made a journey in Hannibal's Footsteps (that was the title of the book I wrote about my walk and climb, and of the television series I based on it). I had eaten at almost all the three-star restaurants in France, as well as scores of two- and one-star (as well, of course, at many unstarred ones), but Pic had escaped me. Valence is in the Rhône valley, and a brief detour to the foothills seemed called for. Sufferers from gout or stomach ulcers should skip the next few paragraphs.

I started with the simplest of *amuse-gueules*: a handsome slice of melon and some sweet Parma ham; Pic's own *marque* of champagne accompanied that, and of course the lingering over the menu. I weighed anchor with fillets of red mullet accompanied by quail's eggs stuffed with caviare. That was followed by an *escalope de foie de canard* in a lemon sauce, sprinkled with razor-cut shreds of the zest.

Next was a row of *escrimeuses* in a pastry boat, surrounded by a sea of truffles. The interval was filled with *le trou Normand*, that blow to the palate which stuns the taste for the few minutes it needs to start working again: my *trou* was a lemon sorbet drenched in *marc d'Hermitage*, and it worked perfectly. So did the next course: a combination of *loup de mer* and salmon in a creamy vegetable sauce. But it was more than that. It was also a picture, because both the white of the sea-bass and the pink of the salmon had been cut up and "painted" onto the plate in alternate pieces. Pic had even had the sauce sprinkled with all its colours for the fish. Nothing daunted, I went on with the pigeon in wine: plump, soft and full of taste, none of the gamy flavour that pigeon can have. But now it was time to choose



Modest master of his art: Pic became a hero even to other chefs

the cheese: I took a flavoured-filled *chèvre* and half a dozen or so of the tiny, hard pellets which you eat from a straw.

Dessert loomed sweetly; before the vast range was even proffered the head waiter produced a *soufflé glacé à l'orange*, saying it was — a wonderfully meaningful word — *obligatoire*. Then there was nothing more but some raspberries and *fraises des bois* followed by a peach

sorbet and the chocolate gâteau. (I had happily put my fate into the hands of the *sommelier*, and he did not betray me: a white *Hermitage* followed by a red one, both superb.)

Pic himself led me to a beautiful *chaise-longue*, and I subsided for an hour or so; I found the *maitre* himself sitting beside me, and I murmured "J'ai mangé des *miracles*", and he blushed — he really did blush, this amazing, shy, self-

effacing genius, and said "C'est mon métier". I had noticed.

From then on, we were fast friends, though towards the end I had to forgo the delights of his table, because whatever I did or said he would not let me pay; but when I read of his death it was a blow from which I am not ashamed to say that I wept; indeed, I would have been ashamed had I not wept.

Pic was truly unique. He shunned publicity, the very idea of a television series filled him with horror (he had the devil's own job to persuade him to take part in my Hannibal walk, and I think uniquely among the three-star great ones he did not advertise his latest concoction, nor did he fly to Los Angeles or Jeddah to do huge banquets for the hugely rich. He stayed in Valence and cooked, and he cooked because, and only because, he knew that he made his customers happy with his cooking.

He was even a hero to the other great chefs of France. Troisgros said of him "Jacques Pic est le plus généreux de nous tous, dans sa vie comme sa cuisine". And Le dauphiné, the newspaper of the region in which Valence stands, reinforced his modesty, saying "Il était le plus discret des 3 étoiles". He died, of course, in harness; indeed, his death took place in his kitchen: surrounded by his *brigade*, he was doing what he had done so long — cooking unimaginable delights to make people happy and thus to make himself happy. Well, at least he was saved from pain and debility; he fell dead in an instant from heart failure. (Alain, his son, trained by Jacques, will now take over in the kitchen.)

He was, for all his shyness, a merry man, and he would have had a struggle between laughter and modesty when he saw the front page on which his death was recorded: the whole of the top of the space was filled with the news of his death, pictures and all; below was the trivial matter of the Maastricht referendum. I salute a man, an artist, a grand soul and a friend.



...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

The decision to write this has been difficult and I have wrestled with my conscience all week. The dilemma can be simply stated: do you tell a chap that his wig looks silly? If, by outing a secret baldy, you can separate him from his hair-piece, have you been unkind, or have you proved his true friend? In a word, if you suspect a chap's a closet toupee-iste, should you say anything?

He will know who he is. There was only one violinist in the London Philharmonic Orchestra sitting in front of me at the concert at the Royal Festival Hall last Tuesday night, September 22. I was there with my secretary.

It was during the Webern that I first began to suspect. Attention had wandered from the music. I am not proud that modern "classical" music leaves me cold; just honest. It was one of those avant-garde pieces. Lots of funny noises and sudden bangs. Such music can set a fellow looking at another fellow's wig.

At first I was unsure. He was quite a young violinist, and right at the front of the orchestra. Mrs Wright and I were in the front row, so the fiddler was six feet away and elevated about three feet above us. We could look up from under his sideburns, and this unusual perspective was not our only privilege: another was the opportunity, rare in a public place, to stare fixedly at someone's hair for about two hours without discomfiting him in the least — for the young violinist was too busy attending

to his fiddle to notice us. His face was a picture of rapt concentration.

Was it or wasn't it? The hair was lustrous, thick, ginger-brown and impeccably brushed — no proof of artifice, but what aroused my curiosity and (once I had drawn this to her attention) that of Mrs Wright, was the way it reached down and back on each side, from temples to ear-tops in two big sweeps, like the folded wings of a chicken. As the Webern tinkled and bonged its way towards a conclusion, I realised that the place where the wing section met the next section was — well, it just wasn't right.

Mrs Wright and I discussed this during the short interval which followed, she inclining to the view that this was just a harsh hairstyle, and I (I fear) to the other view.

Then came Bruch's violin concerto. Pinchas Zukerman was the soloist, and while David Mellor was in charge of culture I should never have dared admit that the wig distracted me from the music, but Peter Brooke will understand. The Bruch I can buy on CD: the wig I may never see again. Anyway, I loved that concerto when I was a student, and now I see that it is shallow. Shaming, to conclude that I must have been shallow too. It is very insulting to be reminded of the wigs we have loved. Jean Anouilh. *Lawrence of Arabia*. Mrs Thatcher... oh dear.

So I returned to the wig. During the *allegro moderato*

Mrs Wright spotted a small thinning patch on the fiddler's crown, which looked real, contrasting with the lush growth above the ears, which did not. But we could not identify the join, and our neither-view limited sightings of the crown to those short and infrequent moments when a moving interlude in the music caused him to throw back his head with passion. It was not until the *adagio* that Mrs Wright was forced to concede that it was a wig. She hates to admit when she is wrong. During the *allegro molto vivace*, however, she apologised.

During the interval we agreed a final checklist: (i) Could we find the stubbly bit, where the hair petered out on the neck? (ii) How did the hair move when shaken? I settled back for *Carmine Burana* to check. I do not like *Carmine Burana*. There's something nasty about it. Attention transferred to the wig. (i) There was no stubble visible, just a ledge of hair. Suspicious. Then, during an extended and violent *pizzicato* section came the answer to (ii). The hair moved wrongly when shaken. It jerked. Real hair floats. QED.

I was about to give Mrs Wright a nudge when the soprano rose. She looked oriental and was called Sumi Jo. She sang so beautifully that, just for a moment, I completely forgot the violinist's wig and the hair pricked all down the back of my neck. Real hair. One moment in a whole programme, but worth it, wig and all.

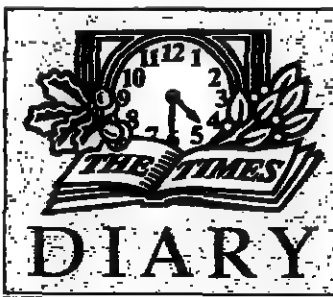
Looking for Mr Smith

AS John Smith arrived in Blackpool for the opening of the Labour party conference today, the final touches were being applied to the first biography of the Opposition leader. But those expecting skeletons to be shaken from the Labour leader's closet will be disappointed.

The author, Andy McSmith, a former Labour party press officer and currently political correspondent on the *Daily Mirror*, has found none. "There is no sex, drugs or rock 'n' roll. His private life is as clean as a whistle," says McSmith. The author of the 100,000-word tome, to be published in February by Verso, is in good company. *Panorama* dropped its proposed programme on John Smith after weeks of research because the producer Michael Crick was told his subject was "too boring".

McSmith, who has not yet decided on a title, has approached diverse sources, including Sir Bernard Ingham, Lords Lawson and Tebbit. From the left Tony Benn has been generous in his praise of Smith, although Neil Kinnock has so far been "too busy" to talk about his successor.

McSmith says: "I contrast Smith's skill as a parliamentarian with the fact that he has got no experience of handling the Labour party. He will have to learn and quickly." But McSmith claims to have deeper insight into Smith's private life than most biographers. "I am probably one of the few who has slept with his subject," he says. When McSmith was working for Tony Benn in the Chesterfield by-election in 1984 there was a shortage of hotel accommodation and the author ended up sharing his hotel room with the future Labour leader. Whatever failings



Smith may have, he knows to squeeze a tube of toothpaste from the bottom.

● Bryan Gould's dramatic resignation from the shadow cabinet yesterday may perversely create more problems for John Smith than it solves. Gould is expected to lose his seat on the National Executive Committee in today's election, but by the narrowest of margins, as Smith's forerunner, the staunchly pro-European Neil Kinnock, tops the ballot. But if, as has been speculated, Kinnock becomes an EC commissioner in Brussels there will be an automatic vacancy. Gould, as a reward for his rebellious stance, is likely to take it. Thus Smith's forerunner would hand over the position of chief thorn in the flesh to Smith's rival.

Bottling it up

IT IS not only in the cabinet that politicians face splits over European policy. Equally serious is the dissension in the cellar. John Major came under fire for serving German wine at Chequers on the day of the French referendum, a *faux pas* John Gummer does not intend to repeat. The agriculture minister has overruled his Whitehall officials to insist that only English wine will be served at today's meeting of EC agriculture ministers at Clare College, Cambridge. Gummer

even set up a tasting panel and invited the food minister, Nicholas Soames, and James Robinson, the wine writer, to help choose England's finest vintages.

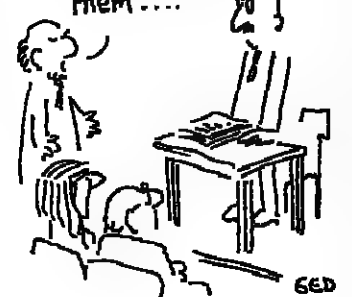
They came up with a 1990 Muller-Thurgau from the Elham Valley Vineyards in Kent. The medium-sweet style was deemed inappropriate for the fish course but, undeterred, Gummer insisted that it should be served as an aperitif instead. A fresh tasting was ordered and the minister and his panel have opted for something known as Mersea, from Essex.

Closed shop

COLLETS, Britain's most famous left-wing bookshop, stockist of *Militant* and *Socialist Worker* and suppliers of Marxist tomes about the class struggle, has de-recognised its employees' trade union. The shop, founded in 1934 not

CHAPEL MEETING

"Father forgive them..."



only as a purveyor of left-wing literature but as a communist meeting place, recently moved from its original location in Charing Cross Road to Great Russell Street. The changeover, it seems, was more than merely physical — the shop decided not to negotiate any longer

with the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union. "We have not recognised the union since we had a dispute with them," says Harry Moore, the managing director of Collets. The company is shortly to open a store in Moscow, where trade unions seem similarly to have fallen into disrepute.

● The firm hand of government is still apparent in some areas. From the Department of Health's submissions to the pay review body comes the following: "The government's firm monetary policy will not allow successive pay settlements to feed through to higher inflation, nor within the discipline of employers being bailed out by a lower exchange rate." The submission is dated September 1992.

Losing Grace's

THE one family link between the late Grace Kelly and her Irish forebears is about to be severed by Prince Rainier. The small plot of land in County Mayo, from which her grandfather Jack emigrated to America, is to be put on the market. The 35-acre farm at Drimurra, which includes the remains of the 19th-century cottage where the princess believed her ancestors lived, has been owned by the Grimaldi family in Monaco since 1976.

The Grimaldis are said to have contacted Patrick Durcan, the solicitor who handles their Irish affairs, to discuss the possible sale of the land. Durcan, presumably sworn to secrecy by royal command, declines any comment. But the prospect of a forthcoming sale has so upset the west-coast community that Mayo County Council has been deluged with telephone calls demanding that the site be bought by the authority and developed as a theme park in memory of Princess Grace.



ARGUING ALOUD

Two or three times a century an issue of principle arises in British politics which is capable of splitting parties asunder. Whether it is home rule for Ireland, tariff reform or European integration, the arguments run too deep to be suppressed by traditional party discipline. If either John Major or John Smith thought two weeks ago that they could paper over party divisions over Europe, they surely cannot believe so now. Yesterday Bryan Gould, shadow national heritage secretary, resigned his post in order to speak against the party line on Maastricht. At the same time two cabinet ministers, Michael Howard and John Gummer, illustrated in only a little more coded language how deep the rift runs in the Conservative party too.

Mr Howard hinted that he would not be at all unhappy to see other countries in the Community moving at a different pace from Britain. Mr Gummer, meanwhile, said that he saw no future for Britain on the sidelines of Europe. However Downing Street may dissemble about the absence of Tory splits, these two views, represented in one cabinet, are as opposed as they could be.

It is good for British democracy, if bad for party unity, that such a debate is taking place in public. Predictably Mr Gould was criticised yesterday for resigning on the eve of Labour's party conference, so detracting from the triumphalist mood in Blackpool. Conservative whips must also be anxious about the increasingly open nature of their split, not just on the back benches but in the cabinet too. No one policy will reconcile the two camps.

The more openly Europe becomes an intra-party, rather than inter-party, issue, the stronger the case for a referendum becomes. Politicians cannot be expected to argue against their beliefs on a matter of such strong principle. Some may resign from government in order not to have to do so.

Mr Gould has had to resign from the shadow cabinet because Mr Smith is determined to maintain the iron rod of discipline

forged by Neil Kinnock in the mid-1980s. That is to be regretted, for if ever there were a time for party members to be allowed to disagree, it is now, soon after an election.

From Labour's long-term point of view, Mr Gould's departure is also regrettable for a reason beyond that of European policy. He is one of the few party members who really understands why it lost the last election.

There is a danger this week that, because the government is in such disarray, Labour will use its conference simply to gloat. Instead it should ask itself why, in the middle of a recession, when it was leading in the opinion polls, it could muster only 35 per cent of the vote in April. With the Tories gaining from boundary changes between now and the next election, it will take more than one last heave for Labour to form a government.

Today the Fabian Society publishes a pamphlet written by Giles Radice which examines why Labour did particularly badly in the South, winning just 10 seats out of 177 outside London and south of a line joining the Wash to the Bristol Channel. This is not a peculiarly southern problem: it is one of social change. The South happens to be over-endowed with homeowners in suburbs doing white-collar or skilled manual jobs. These people are increasing in number, and they forcefully expressed to Mr Radice's researchers their antipathy to Labour.

Half of them could think of nothing positive to say about Labour; of those who could, its opposition status sprang most readily to mind. They fear that Labour will take away their precarious prosperity. It will prevent them "getting on". All feared that they would be classed as "rich" and would therefore be heavily taxed.

Labour has failed to appreciate the profound change in attitude that has taken place throughout Britain. Class solidarity is vanishing in favour of social mobility. As long as Labour remains a class-based party, epitomised by its close links with the unions, it cannot regain its popularity with the people whose votes it needs to win power.

THE WINNING THING

Only a few months ago the White House greatly envied John Major his election victory, his solid political base and his proof that, even in these depressed economic times, a clumsy, colourless incumbent could clasp hold of his office. Today the envy must be rather less; the president and the prime minister are struggling together.

The Democrats are still favourite to drive the Republicans from the White House for the first time since the victory of Jimmy Carter over President Ford in 1976. The Republicans have lost the campaign so far. They have trailed heavily in the polls for three months. On peripheral issues, such as the question of TV debates, Mr Bush has appeared increasingly defensive.

No candidate running as far behind as the president does today has ever bounded back to victory in November. There is nothing yet very inspiring about the Republicans' reiterated cry of "four more years". The American people patently do not want more of the same, and the president has not yet made it clear that change is on offer.

It would be unwise, however, for Europeans to write off the president just yet. His campaign manager, James Baker, is the most formidable organiser in American politics. He is the master of timing. If anyone can coax some "vision thing" out of Mr Bush at the right moment it is he.

A message of what the second Bush administration wants to achieve must include some repudiation of what the first administration did achieve, including the largest federal deficit in American history. The voters will look more kindly on a candidate who appears contrite than on one who simply sounds complacent.

Mr Bush must seek to regain the high ground in the intellectual debate. Ronald Reagan carried the aura of "a conviction politician": President Bush appears no more than a merchant of expediency. But Mr Bush is not fighting Mr Reagan. His

challenger, Bill Clinton, has an image of expediency as a way of life.

There are beginnings to be a few positive signs from the polls, most recently from the important state of Ohio, where the Democrat lead has been cut from ten to one per cent. Support for Governor Clinton may have peaked too soon.

The Republicans should devote the last campaigning weeks to expounding their underlying principles, not "family values" but free markets. Mr Bush needs to raise his eyes to the hills; too often lately they have seemed to be focused on what the public rightly perceives as the shifting ground beneath his feet.

The man who all-too-transparently prefers governing to fighting elections will not win unless he stops being squeamish. In the next five weeks he has to persuade the electorate that it cannot risk placing its future in the hands of his opponent. That means asking some tough questions about Mr Clinton's fitness for office. The issues go well beyond what he did, or did not, do about the draft as a young man of 22. The president might start by forcing tight commitments to the North American Free Trade Agreement, where the influence of the unions seems rapidly to be turning Mr Clinton into a protectionist. Four out of ten Americans still do not feel they know enough about the Democratic candidate to have an opinion about him. That gap provides the president with his most fruitful opportunity.

There is no point in being too fastidious. American presidential elections are essentially adversarial contests in a way that British general elections still are not. It is, therefore, perfectly legitimate for any incumbent president to base his final strategy on the theme that his rival is not up to the job. The 41st president of the United States defeated one opponent that way four years ago; he still has as good a chance of achieving the same success in five weeks' time.

SMALL CHANGE

It is not just the British economy that is in the dustbin. The coinage is too. Money is not everything. Usually it is not even enough, and it is getting smaller. To reflect in cupronickel the statistics of shrinking gross national product, on Wednesday the Royal Mint is to introduce a smaller 10p piece to replace the last survivor of the pre-decimalised system, the old two-shilling florin.

Coins can reveal much about the history and state of the coming nation. The politics and national image of the city states of Greece and Syracuse can be read in their gold and silver staters. In the most high and palmy state of Rome, the portraits of the emperors on the coinage were realistic miniatures, showing beaked nose, bald head, double chin and all. As Rome declined, and emperors became four a penny, their portraits grew vaguer and more idealised, crowned with effete oriental emblems of divinity, while at the same time the inscriptions became shrilly megalomaniac in their boasts about ruling over an empire on which the sun could never set. These coins sent out a signal that the barbarians were at the gates. The British coinage under Victoria declared that here were things of value, from a great nation.

A numismatic historian from Vulcan would conclude from the British coinage since decimalisation that he had under his magnifying glass a nation in steady decline, constantly tampering with its coinage. Instead of the traditional ascending series of disc-shaped coins, growing in size and importance step by step with their value,

there has been a proliferation of hexagons, with size of coin divorced from value. The designs are diverse and trendy instead of traditional, and the metal has become steadily cheaper and nastier. The monarch represented on the coinage is stylised, hardly having aged in 40 years. The numismatist from outer space might well decide that Britain is in a state of advanced decline, with the Visigoths of the Bundesbank at the gates. He would not be entirely right. The pound coin is a solid improvement with its dignified boars around the milled edge. The new 5p coin, made of a size and cutting edge to pierce a hole in trouser pockets even where none existed, has been found by an economic psychologist to be so despised that the majority of people who spot one on the ground cannot be bothered to pick it up. The 1p coin serves a function only as change for objects cunningly priced at £0.99. Even the dimmest Vulcanian or Briton can see through that marketing trick.

First of all, Britain needs to stabilise its economy. Then it needs to design a coinage that reflects the stability and worth of its economy, with the best of modern design rather than trumpety gimmicks. Then it needs to leave it alone to acquire the dignity of age. It will be doing well if it designs anything as enduring as the old 10p coin that dies on Wednesday. That silver florin was first issued in 1849 as a tentative introduction of decimalisation. That is the proper timescale for a currency. If the Royal Mint can ever get it right, a period of silence on its part would be welcome.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Careful rebuilding of economic policy seen as UK aim

From Mr Michael Posner

Sir, Your editorial, "Budgeting for growth" September 22, and the letter from Professor Tim Congdon and others on the same day, both make clear suggestions for a new system of economic policy, of aims and instruments. This is necessary after the destructive events of the last few days. Whatever our individual views about the government's original choice of a price for sterling against the deutschmark — it was perhaps dangerously high — we should not welcome the sweeping away of a main strut of policy, a main instrument of influence over the price level.

Some of the necessary components of a revised policy are correctly noted in both editorial and letter. Fiscal and monetary policy should move in mutual support, within a revised, though narrow strategy, the main elements of which should be openly debated, within a fully numerate framework to be provided by the Treasury.

If it is true that a "full-employment budget" on present tendencies would be seriously in deficit, then the consequences for taxation and expenditure control must be faced and the causes honestly identified. An easing of monetary stringency is appropriate, but not sufficiently to allow a renewed speculative boom: there must be some "anchor" for the price level.

So much is common ground. But the last thing the UK economy needs is a new "fix", a new dogma. For the last 20 years we have had enough gurus, enough "revealed wisdom", enough new ways to paradise on earth. If ever an economy has suffered from experimental neurosis, it is ours. Floating versus fixed exchange rates; monetary versus fiscal policy; incomes policies (as in your editorial suggestions for the public sector) "on" or "off"; PSBR (public-sector borrowing requirement) fetishism and PSBR neglect: the all-importance or the zero-importance of the balance of trade — you name it, the UK economy has bowed to it.

Please may we return to a certain balance, a certain sense of calm, a consensus that none of these patent medicines alone can help the patient? A careful rebuilding of policy, based on painstakingly argued detail rather than revealed inspiration, is what we need: no miracles, no gimmicks; a recognition that we have many aims for the economy, not just one (low inflation and less unemployment); that many instruments should be used, not just one (monetary and fiscal policy), a policy for aggregate demand and a concern for industrial investment.

Who knows, we could begin to build a policy that would have a shelf life of more than 30 months.

Yours etc.

M. V. POSNER
(Deputy Chief Economic Adviser,
Treasury, 1975-6),
Rushdown,
Jack Straws Lane, Oxford.
September 26.

From the General Secretary
of the MSF union

Sir, Anatole Kalesky rightly says (article, Business Times, September 21), there has been a "total stifling of economic debate in Britain". But it goes deeper than that.

We may argue the merits of the ERM (exchange-rate mechanism) or a floating currency, and suggest that devaluation was the only way to overcome the damage from the impos-

sibly high rate at which the pound was pitched on ERM entry; but it still does not clarify the problem for our economy as a whole.

At last some people are waking to the reality that British manufacturing industry has been so weakened by the last two recessions that it is simply unable to take advantage of any upturn in the economy.

As a union with the majority of its members in manufacturing, we are making every effort to raise the debate on this subject. But while investment in our wealth-producing industry is still falling, while training and re-training fails to provide the level of skills which our workforce will need for the future, while research and development is seen as an optional extra by too many companies, what chance do we have of reversing the decline which has seen the loss of two million jobs?

Yours sincerely,
ROGER LYONS,
General Secretary,
Manufacturing, Science,
Finance Union,
Park House,
64/66 Wandsworth Common
Northside, SW18.
September 24.

From the President of the Building
Employers Confederation

Sir, Whilst we welcome the latest base-rate cut (report, September 23) we remain disappointed that the government has not taken bolder steps to end the recession.

The private sector desperately needs a clear signal that the government is determined to end the economic suffering. A larger cut in rates would have shown this determination.

One of the arguments against larger cuts in interest rates is that they will lead to a further depreciation of sterling, which is inflationary. However, there is a strong counter-argument: a decisive cut to between 7 and 8 per cent will restore confidence in the UK economy and lead to a stronger pound.

It is not so much lower interest rates that weaken sterling as the belief of the City and international investors that the fundamentals of the UK economy, as a result of a depressed level of demand, remain fragile.

The boost to confidence of a larger cut in rates now will be far greater than that of two further cuts of 1 per cent over the next six to 12 months and the costs — in terms of insolventcies and unemployment — far less, however calculated.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN HILL, President,
Building Employers Confederation,
82 New Cavendish Street, W1.
September 25.

From Mr Mathew Heim

Sir, I cannot agree with Anatole Kalesky's conclusion ("After the lira, how vulnerable is sterling?", September 15) that the planned European Central Bank, to be modelled on the Bundesbank, will allow politics to influence its independence.

The ECB's independence will be anchored dually in the treaty establishing EMU (article 107) and the statute of the ECB (article 7). It undertakes not to seek outside instruction, and EC governments and monetary authorities undertake not to seek to influence the ECB.

Although independent, the ECB will be obliged to report annually to the European Parliament, the European Council heads of state, the

Council of Economic and Finance Ministers and the European Commission, under articles 109b of the treaty.

This obligation should not be seen as an attack on the bank's independence but rather as "democratic accountability". It is a mechanism for making its decisions better informed and more palatable to the rest of us than would be the decisions of a powerful national central bank, whether it be in Washington, Tokyo or Bonn.

Yours faithfully,
MATHEW HEIM,
Centre for European Studies,
Exeter University,
Exeter, Devon.
September 16.

From Mr Malcolm F. G. Savage

Sir, To anyone who visited the former German Democratic Republic in pre-reunification days it was obvious that the country was at least 20 years behind the Federal Republic in industrial, environmental and living standards. When the Berlin Wall came down it was inconceivable that there could be anything other than a very slow integration of the two countries.

Against that evidence, and I believe, against the advice of the much-maligned Bundesbank, Chancellor Kohl pressed ahead with the disastrous instantaneous integration. His reasons were largely selfish, being a combination of vanity and job-security.

Chancellor Kohl's irresponsible actions have not only adversely affected his own economy but have resulted in great hardship throughout Europe and the Nordic countries. They are likely to result in the collapse of the ERM as the member currencies are picked off one by one by the foreign exchange markets. For the prime minister to blame the Bundesbank is grossly unfair.

Yours faithfully,
M. F. G. SAVAGE,
Heath House, Sheeps Heath,
Brookwood, Surrey.
September 18.

From Mr John Peake

Sir, How is it that a central bank as independent as the Bundesbank could possibly have agreed to a 1:1 valuation of the West and East German mark?

Yours,
JOHN PEAKE,
Corcombe Court,
Dorchester, Dorset.
September 18.

From Mrs Diana McKinley

Sir, If there is to be a two-speed Europe, with Britain amongst the less "speedy" nations, should we not reconsider our position as the second largest contributor to the EC budget?

Yours faithfully,
DIANA MCKINLEY,
McKinley Vintners,
50 Lanercock Road, SW2.
September 24.

From Mr W. R. Brooksbank

Sir, Are we not already in a two-speed Europe in implementing the free trade area and doesn't it sometimes feel pretty lonely for Britain in the fast lane?

Yours truly,
W. R. BROOKSBANK,
Croft House, Hutton,
Skipton, North Yorkshire.
September 25.

ment-funded national body to promote their welfare, as is the case with sport and the arts.

The result is that cuts in local expenditure may hit parks first. What were once the pride of our cities and the most accessible recreation facility for the urban population are, in some cities, becoming the home of society's misfits and shunned by the mothers, children and the elderly whose need is greatest.

The Department of the Environment seems to think that this decline in our city heritage is somehow compensated by its occasional funding of schemes to tart up inner-city derelict sites under urban aid programmes.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BARBER,
Alan Barber Consultancy,
9 Shipham Close,
Nailsea, Bristol, Avon.

Burden on universities

From the National Secretary
of the Association of
University and College Lecturers

Sir, Once again the new universities have increased their annual intake by 16 per cent over the previous year and once again are being lauded by government and vice-chancellors for doing so. Once again the lecturing staff will be expected to accommodate the additional students within overstretched means.

At the same time the government is refusing to release £11 million of the salary bill that is being withheld pending "satisfactory" introduction of a PRP (performance-related pay) system.

The minister for higher education said (report, September 16) that "the only prudent basis for an increase in pay is improvement in productivity". In higher education there can be only

one measure of productivity: the number of students educated. Yet, instead of the government making 16 per cent available for the PRP settlement it offers a derisory 0.75 per cent to be implemented at local discretion.

The government will be defeated by its own reasoning if it continues to persist in extolling market forces at all costs: in the market you do not get what you do not pay for.

Yours faithfully,
M. G. ROBERTS,
National Secretary,
Association of University and
College Lecturers,
104 Albert Road,
Southsea, Hampshire.

Feminism letters, Life & Times

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Remembrance of a lost Dickens

From Mr Robert E. Pike

Sir, On a recent tour of the Somme battlefields I eventually succeeded in locating a memorial to Major Cedric Charles Dickens, a grandson of the writer, an 8ft cross erected close to the spot where, 76 years ago, he was killed while serving with the 1/13th Londons. His mother paid for the cross, as well as the upkeep of the approach to it, which she visited every year until 1939. Today it is to be found, with some difficulty, in the depths of an overgrown hedge, up a farm track, amidst fields of sweet corn and beet.

With the help of Martin Middlebrook's book, *The Somme Battlefields* (1991), and my intrepid young son, who dived into the seemingly impenetrable copse, I located the memorial, complete with the same two shells (plus one newly-placed on the ledge below the cross) seen in the photograph in Middlebrook's book.

He states: "Negotiations are under way which will probably restore or improve the surroundings of this lovely memorial." Sadly, nothing seems to have been done: the site is invisible until you cross a field, stoop low and enter the copse at the right place.

Surely, with the enduring appeal of this area, some organisation — the Western Front Association, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, or even the Dickens Fellowship — could finance the rehabilitation of this poignant memorial in loving memory of our darling Ceddy.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT E. PIKE,
66 Victoria Avenue,
Saffron Walden, Essex.
September 14.

When policemen fail

From the Chairman of the Police
Complaints Authority

Sir, I agree with your leading article, "When policemen fail" (September 24), on the home secretary's call for the police to have new powers to deal with incompetent police officers. Good personnel management should assist officers to raise their level of performance, but there will always be a very few officers who do not achieve the particularly high standards demanded in their profession.

The Police Complaints Authority have long held the view that the police service should move into line with good employment practice, coupled with safeguards against unfair dismissal.

You are right to explain that under the police disciplinary code charges must be proven "beyond reasonable doubt". This is only fair when police officers can be victims of malicious complaints and where their jobs are at risk. However, we suggest that a lower level of proof should be used when the complaint is not so serious as to merit dismissal or reduction in rank. Minor infringements of the discipline code should be entrusted to management at local level.

It is not correct to state that disciplinary proceedings cannot be taken just because the Crown Prosecution Service has decided there will be no criminal charges. In cases arising from complaints by the public, the authority has the final decision as to whether officers should face charges under the disciplinary code, even though the CPS may not have sufficient evidence on which to start proceedings.

For example, in the West Midlands serious crimes squad cases, the deputy chief constable has made his recommendations and we are currently making the final decisions regarding disciplinary action.

Yours faithfully,
LEN PEACH,
Chairman,
Police Complaints Authority,
10 Great George Street, SW1.
September 25.

Broad curriculum

From Mr Christopher Dean

Sir, I have noticed in your newspaper over the last few years an increasing number of references that benefit from some knowledge and understanding of history on the part of the reader.

A quick glance at a number of articles on page 14 and letters and leaders on the opposite page of last Saturday's edition of *The Times* revealed the following references: the 1917 Russian revolution, Lenin, Bolsheviks, Trotsky, Kronstadt, Karl Marx, Charlemagne, Valmy, Goethe, the Dreyfus affair, Joan of Arc, the spirit of 1789 and 1848, May 1968, Napoleon, de Gaulle, Girardin, Jacobin, Colbert, Robert Schuman, 14th-century France, Bourbons, February 1848, Louis-Philippe, Hitler, the National Government of 1931, Stafford Cripps, the charge of the Light Brigade, the Act of Settlement of 1701, the 1772 Royal Marriages Act, George III, the League of Nations and Neville Chamberlain.

What conclusions should we draw from an increasing tendency, which is, I believe, by no means peculiar to this week?

Yours faithfully,
C. DEAN,
The High House,
St Paul's School,
Lonsdale Road, Barnes, SW13.
September 21.

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 27: Divine Service was held in the Parish Church this morning.

The Reverend Alwyn Macfarlane preached the sermon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 26: The Prince Edward, Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, today visited the Palace and was received by Her Majesty the Queen.

His Royal Highness this morning visited the Prince Quays Shopping Centre, Hull, to watch a number of Award related displays.

Subsequently the Prince Edward attended a Luncheon at the Guildhall in support of the Award, given by Kingston Communications, and was received by the Lord Mayor of Kingston upon Hull (Councillor D. Barber).

His Royal Highness later visited the Barton Outdoor Pursuits Centre to watch participants in Award activities.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, Patron, British Speed Challenge, today started the Round the World Yacht Race 1992 from Gillingham Point, Solent, Hampshire, and was received by Rear Admiral Sir

Morgan Morgan Giles (Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire).

Mrs William Nazeby was in attendance.

September 27: The Duke of York returned to Heathrow Airport, London, today from a visit to Canada.

Captain Neil Blair, RN, was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
September 26: The Lady Elizabeth Rasse, who succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 26: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Patron, Northern Ballet Theatre, was present this evening at a Gala Performance by the Company at the Theatre Royal, Bath.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County of Avon (Sir John Wills, Bt).

The Lady Elizabeth Cavendish was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 26: The Duchess of Gloucester today presented The Queen's Trophy for The Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at the Festival of Racing, Ascot, Royal County of Berkshire.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Lord Abinger, 78; Sir Nigel Althaus, former government broker, 63; Miss Brigitte Bardot, actress, 58; Sir Thomas Barnard, former director-general of inspection, Ministry of Supply, 99; Lady Braye, 51; the Duke of Buccleuch, KT, 69; Sir Robin Buchanan, chairman, Wessex Regional Health Authority, 62; Lord Cockfield, 76; Mr Peter Egan, actor, 46; Dame Phyllis Friend, former chief nursing officer, DHSS, 70.

Sir David Hannay, diplomat, 57; Sir Trevor Hughes, water engineer, 67; Mr Jeremy Isaacs, general-director, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 60; the Earl of Lisowel, 66; Miss Ellen Macleod, painter, 69; Mr Marcello Mastroianni, actor, 68; Sir Peter Miller, former chairman, Lloyd's of London, 62; Miss Mary Moon, headmistress, Maudslayi High School for Girls, 60; Major E.S. Orr Ewing, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, 61; Mr Michael Somes, ballet dancer, 75.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will visit the West London Day Centre for single homeless and homeless people at 136 Seymour Place at 10.45.

Prince Edward, as Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh Award, will visit the Haking International Centre, Welwyn Garden City, at 12.30.

The Princess Royal will attend the opening session of the consultation on 'The Rio Conference: Questions for Britain' at 6.10 followed by dinner at St George's House, Windsor Castle.

Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, will visit the Deacons exhibition at Syon Park House at 3.00 in aid of Croaid.

Princess Alexandra will attend a luncheon at the London Hilton on Park Lane at 12.40 in aid of the Care in Crisis Fund of the British Red Cross.



Lita Khazaka, of Perth, Scotland, who at 16 is the young student on the architecture course

Prince's school opens in Regent's Park

THE Prince of Wales fulfils his ambition to change the course of British architecture today with the opening of his new institute of architecture in Regent's Park, London (Marcus Birney writes).

The 31 students from as far afield as Bosnia, Russia and Saudi Arabia will begin a year's foundation course on the traditional basics of architecture, both practical and philosophical.

Students range from school leavers, seeking a wide ranging introduction to the subject to qualified architects who feel their education is incomplete.

Prince's architecture adviser, who is director of studies, says: "There is a great desire among young people to find a new, more imaginative and human way of building."

A Russian student was selected to join the course as the result of a competition held in Moscow in June for which there were 750 entries. Ivan Knaizev, of St Petersburg, has been sponsored by Isaac Tiget, founder of the Hard Rock Cafes, on behalf of the Rama Foundation.

An exhibition based on the Prince's book, *A Vision of Britain*, will be opened by the Prince of Wales in Bologna, Italy, on September 29.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain J.W.L. Green and Miss A.J. Green

The engagement is announced between Captain Jonathan Green, The Royal Dragoon Guards, youngest son of Brigadier and Mrs Harry Baxton, of Boardmills, County Down, and Alison, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Green, of Worlington, Havant, Hampshire.

Mr S.J. Hervieu and Miss F.C.F. O'Neill

The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr John Hervieu and Mrs Hazel Woodbridge, of Jersey, Channel Islands, and Fiona, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Leo O'Neill, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr K.J. Poland and Miss J.A. Hall

The engagement is announced between Kevin, elder son of the late Mr D.K. Poland and Mrs J.M. Fairley, of Petersfield, Hampshire, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Hall, of Ramsgate, Kent.

Mr L.G.E. Smith-Gordon and Miss K. Suzuki

The engagement is announced between Lionel Smith-Gordon, of Hiroo, Tokyo, Japan, only son of Sir Edmund Smith-Gordon, Bt, and Lady Smith-Gordon, of 13 Shalcomb Street, London, SW10, and Kumi, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Masashi Suzuki, of Urawa, Saitama, Japan.

Mr P.G. Trull and Miss A.C. Barry

The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Sir Alan and Lady Trull, of Tisbury, Wiltshire, and Angela, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs Paul Barry, of Bransford, Kent.

Mr G.W. Underhill and Miss A. Mackenzie

The engagement is announced between Giles, second son of the late R.H. Underhill, OBE, and of Mrs J. Underhill, of Coldehorne Farm, Pershore, Warwickshire, and Angela, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C.B. Mackenzie, of Clock House, Warren Road, Crowthorne, East Sussex.

Mr W.J. Whitehead and Miss E.E. Dawson

The engagement is announced between William, second son of the late Dr T.H.N. Whitehead and of Mrs J.C.M. Whitehead, of Rock, Cornwall, and Sarah, middle daughter of the late Mr F.W. Dawson and of Mrs B.M. Blake, of Llanwit Major, South Glamorgan, and Washington DC, and stepdaughter of Mr J.J. Blake.

Service dinners

Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia)

Brigadier J.H. Hooper, President of the Regimental Dining Club of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), presided at a dinner held on Saturday at the Castle, Monmouth.

British Support Command Liaison and Movements Staff TA

Colonel A.S. Feldman and officers of the British Support Command Liaison and Movements Staff TA held a dinner on Saturday at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham, Leicestershire.

C.W.M. Milner Williams presided and the principal guests were Colonel and Mrs John Riggall.

Dinner

Jesus College, Cambridge

Lord Renshaw of Kilmarnock, Master of Jesus College, Cambridge, presided at the annual dinner and meeting of the college society held on Saturday at the college. Mr Peter King and the Bishop of Lambeth also spoke.

Service reunions

Britannia Royal Naval College

Members of the September 1942 Froisher (Special) Entry into the Royal Navy, with Dutch and Norwegian colleagues, held a reunion at the Britannia Royal Naval College yesterday to mark the fiftieth anniversary of their joining the college. Admiral Sir John Treacher presided.

RAF Tempford Association

Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges presided at the 45th annual Tempford reunion (138 and 161 Squadron) held on Saturday at the Anchor Inn, Tempford, Bedfordshire.

Luncheon

Anglo-Omani Society

The Hon Ivor Lucas, chairman, presided at the annual luncheon of the Anglo-Omani Society held on September 24 at the Royal Overseas League. HE Ahmed bin Suwaidan, Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Fisheries, Sultanate of Oman, and the Hon Douglas Hogg, QC, MP, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, were the principal guests. The Ambassador of Oman, present.

Marriages

Mr M.J. Previté and Miss E.S. Pull

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of All Saints, Headley, Hampshire, of Mr Matthew Previté, younger son of Judge John Previté, QC, and the Hon Mrs Previté, of Hampton Wick, Surrey, to Miss Elizabeth Pull, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.J. Pull, of Headley. The Rev R. Woodger officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by the Hon Alice Browne and Emma Pull. Dr Jonathan Booth was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in the Seychelles.

Dr R.E.K. Russell and Miss S.J.F. Mills

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Peter and St Mary, Fishbourne, near Chichester, West Sussex, of Dr Richard Russell, elder son of Mr and Mrs B.J. Russell, of Stopley, Bedfordshire, to Miss Sarah Mills, younger daughter of Sir Frank and Lady Mills, of Chichester. The Rev M. Collett officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Lucy, Eleanor and Benjamin Mills and Miss Sarah Russell. Mr Simon Russell was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr P.T. Austin and Miss Y.M. de Lusignan

The marriage took place on Saturday, September 26, at St Joseph's Church, Chalfont St Peter, of Mr Paul Austin, younger son of Mr and Mrs Trevor Austin, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, to Miss Yvonne de Lusignan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Francis de Lusignan, of Denham, Buckinghamshire.

The reception was held at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club.

Mr A. Fitzgerald and Miss S. Tewari

The marriage took place on September 25, at Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh-on-Sea, between Alan Fitzgerald and Sheila Tewari. Close family were in attendance.

Mr B.M. Fraser and Miss S.M. de Schwarzburg-Guenther

The marriage took place on Saturday, September 26, 1992, at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, of Mr Bruce Matthews Fraser, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Donald Fraser, of Sydney, Australia, to Miss

Sophia de Schwarzburg-Guenther, younger daughter of Mr Stanislas de Schwarzburg-Guenther, of Beaugency, France, and Mrs John Portman, of Kensington, W8. The Rev Christopher Courttauld officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her stepfather, was attended by Miss Alexandra de Schwarzburg-Guenther, Mrs Tim Lamborn and Emma Lenanton. Mr James McCormack was best man.

A reception was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

Dr C.S. Hüseyin and Miss H. Çakıroğlu

The marriage took place on Sunday, September 6, at the London Marriott, Grosvenor Square, of Dr Can Hüseyin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Suavi Hüseyin, and Miss Hülya Çakıroğlu, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hasan Çakıroğlu.

Mr M.F. Lykiardopulo and Miss A.E. Goulardis

The marriage took place on Friday, September 25, at St Sophia's Cathedral, Moscow Road, of Mr Michael Lykiardopulo, son of Mr F.P. Lykiardopulo, of Athens, Greece, and Mrs S. Lykiardopulo, of London, W8, to Miss Alexandra Goulardis, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.N. Goulardis, of Gstaad, Switzerland. His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Penelope Lykiardopulo, Marietta Chandra, Anthony Chandra, Peter Monnas and Andreas Embricos. Mr Nicholas Lykiardopulo was best man.

The reception was held at Claridge's and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr M.E. Worswick and Miss S.L. Mollins

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Clement Danes, London, of Mr Mark Worswick, only son of Mr and Mrs Erik Worswick, of Houston, Texas, to Miss Susan Mollins, daughter of Group Captain and Mrs Freddie Mollins, of Camberley, Surrey. The Rev A.T.R. Goode officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Amber Barnfather, Miss Caroline Brown and Andrew Glen. Mr Jeff Walters was best man.

A reception was held at Middle Temple Hall and the honeymoon is being spent in India.

Service luncheon

2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkhas

The Delhi Day luncheon of the Sirmoor Club was held on Saturday at Westminster. Field Marshal Sir John Chapple presided.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Caravaggio, painter, Caravaggio, Italy, 1573; Richard Bright, physician, Bristol, 1789; Prosper Mérimée, writer, Paris, 1803; Francis Turner Palgrave, compiler of the *Golden Treasury*, Great Yarmouth, 1824; Georges Clemenceau, premier of France 1917-20, Moulon-en-Paredis, 1841.

DEATHS: Wenceslas, patron saint of Czechoslovakia, martyred, Sazava, Bohemia, 929; Herman Melville, novelist and poet, New York, 1891; Louis Pasteur, bacteriologist, St Cloud, France, 1895; Edwin Hubble, astronomer, San Marino, California, 1953; Gerard Hoffnung, artist, humorist and musician, 1959.

In Memory of Barbara Stokes

The renovated organ in Long Crondon Church, Buckinghamshire, was dedicated in memory of Barbara Stokes, wife of John Stokes 1939-1988, at a service on September 27 at which the York and Stokes families were present, together with family friends.

Nature notes

COLLARED doves are flocking where they can find scattered grain, especially round flour mills and harbours, and they will stay together for the winter, not going far from human habitation.

Turtle doves are leaving Britain for tropical Africa, but they can still be seen in small parties on ploughland. They can be distinguished from the grey-brown collared doves by their several neck stripes, like score marks, while the collared dove has only a single dark ring round the neck.

On the east coast, the first hen harriers are arriving from the continent: they glide low over the salt marshes and only pasture with lifted wings. Immigrant short-eared owls are hunting over the same terrain.



Turtle dove

Dogwood trees in the hedges have purple leaves, all drooping slightly. Under the horse-chestnut trees, conkers are gleaming among other debris. On sweet chestnuts, the prickly green shells are plump but the fruit inside is not yet ripe, and the dead male catkins still cling to the shells like a long brown handle. Ivy is covered with rosettes of pale green and yellow flowers, with wasps and hoverflies feeding.

DJM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord is a sure protection in time of trouble, and care for all who have him their refuge. Psalm 117.

BIRTHS

BENTLEY - On September 20th, to Lord and Lady Bentley, a daughter, Lady Emily Jane.

BREKKE - On September 20th, to Anne and John Brekke, a daughter, Lady Emily Jane.

BRIGGS - On September 20th, to Laurence and Duncan, a son, Sam.

HATCHER - On September 18th, to Clare and Peter, a son, Peter.

KIDWELL - On September 24th, to Victoria and John, a daughter, Lady Emily Jane.

MACINTOSH - On September 24th, to Vivian and Matthew, a daughter, Lady Emily Jane.

PARSHALL - On September 25th, to Thomas, a son, Thomas.

FEATFIELD - On September 22nd, to Charles and Anne, a daughter, Lady Emily Jane.

STENNETT - On September 27th, to Gillian and Mark, a daughter, Lady Emily Jane.

SWINDALL - On September 21st, to North and Howard, a daughter, Lady Emily Jane.

TODD - On September 23rd, to Rod and Alison, a daughter, Lady Emily Jane.

WITCOMBE - On September 22nd, to Sophie and Mark, a daughter, Lady Emily Jane.

DEATHS

ADGE - On September 18th, 1992, Lillian Adge, peacefully in Alderbrook Nursing Home aged 87 years, beloved wife of the late Elsie Adge, died at 11.30 on Wednesday, September 23rd, 1992.

BACON - On September 22nd, very suddenly but peacefully at home, 80, Mrs. Joan Bacon, beloved wife of the late Mr. John Bacon, died at 11.30 on Wednesday, September 23rd, 1992.

FEATFIELD - On September 22nd, to Charles and Anne, a daughter, Lady Emily Jane.

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TODD - On September 23rd, to Rod and Alison, a daughter, Lady Emily Jane.

WITCOMBE - On September 22nd, to Sophie and Mark, a daughter, Lady Emily Jane.

COLE - On September 24th, peacefully in her 100th year, Mabel Cole, died at 11.30 on Wednesday, September 23rd, 1992.

HADFIELD - On September 20th, peacefully in her 85th year, Robert Hadfield, died at 11.30 on Wednesday, September 23rd, 1992.

MACINTOSH - On September 24th, to Vivian and Matthew, a daughter, Lady Emily Jane.

PARSHALL - On September 25th, to Thomas, a son, Thomas.

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BOUGHTON - On September 24th, 1992, Capt. J.F.W. Boughton, R.E.M.E. (ret'd) aged 64 years, died at 11.30 on Wednesday, September 23rd, 1992.

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PARSHALL - On September 25th, to Thomas, a son, Thomas.

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LEGAL NOTICES

THE BEDDING CENTRE (TUN TRADING) LIMITED. Registered number 512699. Notice is hereby given that the company is to be dissolved under the provisions of the Companies Act 1985.

OBITUARIES

PROF HENRY
McILWAIN

Professor Henry McIlwain, biochemist, died on September 14 aged 79. He was born on December 12, 1912, in Newcastle upon Tyne.

IN 1948, Henry McIlwain bravely accepted an invitation by Sir Aubrey Lewis to the new post of principal biochemist and senior lecturer in biochemistry at the Maudsley Hospital, London, during the gestation of the Institute of Psychiatry as a constituent school of the new British Postgraduate Medical Federation. His brief was to organise teaching and research on biochemistry of the nervous system. He sensibly organised the material gathered for his lecture courses for the publication of the first comprehensive neurochemical textbook, in 1955. His relatively small laboratories quickly became a world centre of excellence in neurochemistry; between 1950 and the late 1970s, his was the major training centre. Funding for his research was virtually all external and competitively won. In those extraordinarily productive decades, his small university-funded academic staff (three to four including himself) was unchanged, but attached academic workers (post-graduate students and post-doctoral workers) increased more than tenfold. During this period, he initiated the first postgraduate taught courses in neurochemistry in the world: in 1961, a "summer-school" two-week course in practical neurochemistry was held,

at his department of bacterial chemistry led by Sir Paul Fildes at the Middlesex Hospital, London, and at the unit for research in cell metabolism with Sir (then Dr) Hans Krebs, in Sheffield.

McIlwain's outstanding research qualities were those of single-minded energy in pursuing a goal, a deeply scholarly approach and, above all, courage in developing new experimental approaches to neurochemistry, often in the face of persistent criticism. This is well illustrated by the techniques he developed for studying cerebral metabolism in relation to electrical events using cortical slices. These techniques and the apparatus he devised (such as the McIlwain chopper) are now extensively applied, often without reference to their author.

Indeed, his most outstanding contributions were in the development of *in vitro* techniques for relating molecular mechanisms to cerebral function — in particular his observations on dynamic aspects of the cerebral energy state and his far-reaching success in evolving and analysing synaptic electrical activity *in vitro* — thus providing convincing evidence, in defiance of the established wisdom of the time, that electrically and metabolically active neurones could survive and be studied in brain slices. This represents one of the major developments in the neurosciences. His international status was that of one of the few fathers of his chosen subject.

He was active in dissemination of this new and complex subject of neurochemistry at international level. He was instrumental in organising a series of international neurochemical symposia from 1955 to 1963, which culminated in the founding of the International Society for Neurochemistry in 1965. He was also involved in establishing, in 1956, the first specialist journal on the subject, *The Journal of Neurochemistry*.

McIlwain published over 250 scientific papers. His books included *Biochemistry and the Central Nervous System* (1955), which ran to five editions, the last two, in 1971 and 1985.

He retired from his post as professor of biochemistry at the Institute of Psychiatry in 1980, and was invited to continue his research on purines as neurochemists at St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, as emeritus professor of biochemistry. During this period, he also consolidated a combination of two of his loves — for neuroscience philosophy and for history.

He was never easy to work with — he exacted a disciplined dedication that some found difficult to maintain. Yet he never sought more from colleagues than he expected from himself.

A festschrift held on his retirement from his chair in biochemistry at the Institute of Psychiatry in 1980 was attended by former colleagues and students spanning three decades.

Several mild heart attacks persuaded McIlwain, in 1987, to retire from St Thomas's to Bridgton, Shropshire, where he continued to contribute to neurochemistry in his writings and as historian for the International Society for Neurochemistry. He subsequently suffered further heart attacks and strokes, all of which he fought valiantly.

His first wife, Jane, died in 1977, and he is survived by his second wife, Marjorie, and the two daughters from his first marriage, Jean and Margaret.



which evolved in 1967 into a full-time one-year MSc course in neurochemistry.

Henry McIlwain's childhood environment was poor economically, but emotionally warm and intellectually stimulating. His father, John McIlwain, from Glasgow, was a sergeant in the Indian Army and later a postal clerk. With his father away for long periods in the Army, his mother, Louise, found plenty of time to encourage her two children to interest themselves in music, literature and science.

McIlwain left the Atkinson Road Junior Day Technical School in Newcastle at 14 to work for a firm of consultant analysts, and, during his evenings, attended classes at the Central School of Commerce in Newcastle. He completed his BSc in chemistry at King's College, University of Durham, in 1934. He then devoted himself to full-time research at King's, under Professor G.R. Clemo, for his MSc and PhD, obtained in record time, by 1936.

McIlwain's PhD thesis on the chemistry of natural products contained original observations on anti-bacterial agents, and he was invited to continue his work at Queen's College, Oxford, in 1936. From 1937 to 1947, he made many contributions to microbial nutrition and chemotherapy in Medical Research Council units — in the count-

Scripture recounts that God chose the Jews as his special people from among the nations and promised them possession of the land of Canaan. As God decreed to Abraham: "To your descendants I will give this land." (Genesis 12:7). To fulfil this promise the Israelites were commanded to take the land away from its inhabitants. Thus before his death, Moses instructed his successor Joshua that "the Lord your God... will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them" (Deuteronomy 31:3).

Through the centuries the Jewish nation has glorified this conquest and these words from holy writ have subtly shaped the Jewish psyche. For nearly two millennia the Jews have steadfastly and proudly proclaimed their absolute right to the entire land which God is said to have given them. In modern times this biblical image of the land flowing with milk and honey still continues to animate Jewish consciousness. Even among the most secular and assimilated there is a residual conviction that the

Fritz Leiber, American science fiction writer, died on September 5 aged 81. He was born in Chicago on December 24, 1910.

ALTHOUGH often referred to as a science fiction author, Fritz Leiber lived in a world rather more complex than that. He was the first to use the term "Sword and Sorcery" to describe this particular SF sub-genre, and wrote of the dark horrors of the commonplace, scratch the surface of urban life and there is something deeply sinister beneath. In this he could be compared with the film director David Lynch.

Ramsey Campbell, the highly regarded British horror author (whose own work touches Leiber territory) called him, "the greatest living writer of supernatural horror fiction". He certainly exerted a definitive influence on American fantastic fiction, drawing many of his own images and themes from Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe, H.P. Lovecraft and the master of the English ghost story, M.R. James.

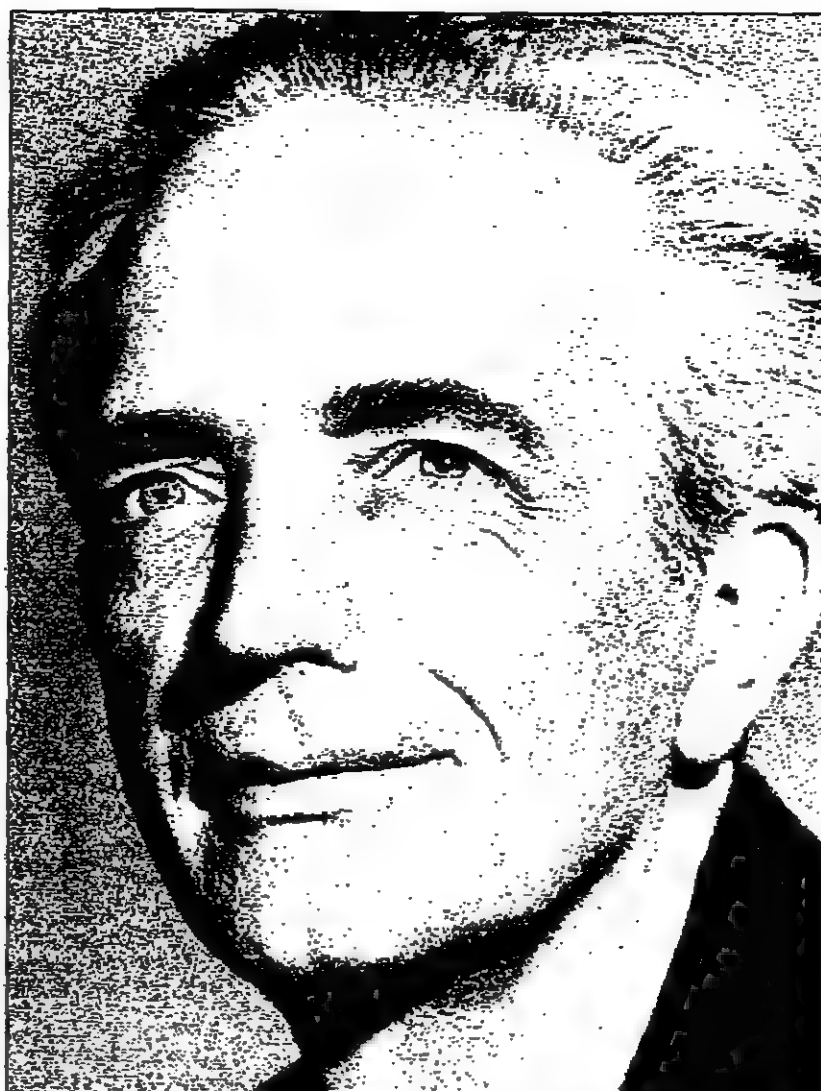
Fritz Leiber Jr, was the son of a notable Shakespearean actor. Leiber Sr had his own touring company and had starred in several silent films. Encouraged to join his father's company, Fritz Leiber toured with him in 1934, but left two years later when he married Jonquil Stephens. He decided to settle for a career as a writer, but during a brief spell as an actor he did manage to play a small part in *Camille*. Leiber was a graduate of the University of Chicago where he had majored in psychology and physiology, a grounding which helped reinforce the sub-structure of many of his stories.

His interest in writing came from a long correspondence with a close college friend, Harry Fischer. Together they developed alter ego characters: Nordie Fafard — a tall, gangly limbed individual from "the North" — based on Leiber, and the effervescent Grey Mouser — based on Fischer. Leiber first featured the characters in a story, "Adept's Gambit", which featured a cast of creations in a fantastic world of mystic magic. The story was rejected, but the characters reappeared in his first 1939 published story, "Two Sought Adventure", which was published in *Unknown* magazine.

In these early days he was edited by John W. Campbell, of *Astounding Science Fiction* (and author of *The Thing From Another World*). Although Leiber experimented with a variety of forms and sub-genres, the Fafard/Grey Mouser partnership was a series to which he remained faithful throughout his life. Many collections followed and one anthology, *Ill Met in Lankhmar* (1970), received the Hugo science fiction award.

Fritz Leiber's many awards included a Life Award for his contribution to his field, presented at the Second World Fantasy Convention. His writing career, though, underwent a roller-coaster progression, due mainly to chronic alcoholism, a condition about which he openly spoke and wrote. There were occasions

FRITZ LEIBER



when he appeared almost completely to disappear from public view, although he produced over 40 books.

Leiber's first major work as an SF author came with his novel *Gather Darkness* (1943), concerning the overthrow of a religious dictatorship.

The most interesting side of Leiber's fiction is his pre-occupation with the threat of modern urban horror, city life and its web of terrors gradually corrupting the psyche. *The Automatic Pistol* (1940) featured a gun with a life of its own, and *Smoke Ghost* (1941) presented the tensions of a pressured metropolitan worker. For many followers of fantastic fiction the novels were a turning point in the field. In *The Black Godolier* (1964), a darkly portrayed Death-figure becomes the emissary of oil, a metaphor for pollution of the environment.

Leiber was also fascinated with the idea of the *femme fatale*. He used witchcraft as a metaphor for feminine cunning and realised this in one of his most famous novels, *Conjure Wife* (1953). The novel was filmed as *Night of the Eagle* in 1962,

featuring Peter Wyngarde as a college professor. It was not much regarded at the time but has since become a cult movie.

Leiber often referred to Shakespeare's dark lady but his pre-occupation culminated in the last and best of his later novels, *Our Lady of Darkness*. It is not only an homage to the horror genre, it is the natural resolution of his previous work.

Four months ago he married Margo Skinner, his partner for the past 20 years. He is also survived by his son Justin, from his marriage to Jonquil Stephens (who died in 1969). Fritz Leiber was a gracious man, willing to give time to his many fans who would queue to speak to him at Fantasy and Science Fiction conventions. He regularly contributed a column to the SF trade magazine, *Locus*, and was most articulate when discussing the genre's pre-occupations. Of supernatural horror fiction, he said: "What is the whole literature of supernatural horror, but an essay to make Death itself exciting — wonder and strangeness to life's very end?"

COLONEL FRED TILSTON, VC

Frederick Albert Tilston, who won the VC at the Hochwald on March 1, 1945, died in his native Toronto on September 23 aged 86. He was born there on June 11, 1906.



ONLY a year ago, Fred Tilston, at 85, was walking the battlefields and military cemeteries in France, Germany and The Netherlands on his artificial legs. A companion was unwise enough at one site, soggy with rain, to complain about getting his feet wet. "Ah!" said Tilston, his one eye twinkling. "That's a problem I don't have to face!"

Tilston's VC exploit was really a first world war operation translated to the second world war. On March 1, 1945, at the Hochwald, this man who "never would make an officer" led his company across 500 yards of open ground with no tank support, just behind a creeping barrage. Wounded in the head, he charged into the enemy trenches, firing his Sten gun from the hip. Silencing a troublesome machine gun with a grenade, he led his men into the wood where he received his first leg wound.

In hand-to-hand fighting, his company heavily outnumbered and depleted. Major Tilston consolidated a position that was never retaken, and was hit in the other leg. As the result of that action, he lost both legs and an eye — a heavy enough price even for a VC. Nudging 40, he should not have been at the sharp end, especially as he had taken a bullet near the heart during training in 1941, and then barely survived in 1944, when his jeep struck a mine. Tilston went from college to Toronto University, where he

began what was to be, with the interruption of war, a brilliant pharmaceutical career. A reasonable sportsman with a passion for music, he was known to colleagues and friends as a quiet and amiable companion. He did well professionally with Sterling Products, of Windsor, Ontario, up to the outbreak of the second world war, when he was commissioned into the Essex Scottish of Toronto, taking up his post in England in 1941. He always expressed bitter regret at missing the Dieppe raid because of his first wounding.

Sharp of eye, and sharp of mind and tongue, although never malicious, Fred Tilston remained a delightful companion, full of good stories and anecdotes, and a good listener when others were stimulated into yarning. On a visit to England some years ago, he was asked on radio what he supposed to be "the main characteristic in a man who is going to win the Victoria Cross". Tilston grinned, his single optic alive with humour and full appreciation of the situation. "Inexperience," he replied.

When his original military examiners came to the conclusion that Fred Tilston "would never make an officer", they doubtless had in mind his reputation for mild behaviour and an inexpressible sense of fun, leading them to believe that he would never be capable of giving an order, or receiving one seriously. Although he often found it difficult to keep a straight face when listening to the weird and wonderful stories presented by soldiers who had oversteered leave or committed other minor misdemeanours, nonetheless, he was the sternest of men when confronted by the rare incident of meanness or pilfering, and no one could have led, inspired and controlled his men in action with tighter command.

Tilston returned to Sterling Products, in 1946, as vice-president in charge of sales, and he was president of Sterling Drug from 1957 to 1970. He was honorary colonel of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment and a supporter of the Canadian militia and the Canadian Legion.

Tilston's wife, Helen, whom he married in 1946, predeceased him. He leaves an adopted son.

Dan Cohn-Sherbok

Make this a new year of peace and hope in Israel

THIS week Jews throughout the world will be celebrating the new year which marks the beginning of the Ten Days of Penitence and which concludes with the Day of Atonement. This period constitutes the most solemn time of the year during which all people are judged and their fate determined.

According to the Talmud, those who are deemed perfectly righteous on the new year are inscribed in the Book of Life, whereas those who are completely evil are recorded in the Book of Death — in all other cases, their fate remains undetermined until the Day of Atonement. Hence it is during this time that all efforts must be made for self-improvement through repentance, prayer and charity.

Here then is an opportunity for self-examination in the light of Judaism's highest ideals, and at no epoch has this been more important: today there are real opportunities for making atonement for a misapprehension which has haunted the Jewish people from earliest times.

Scripture recounts that God chose the Jews as his special people from among the nations and promised them possession of the land of Canaan. As God decreed to Abraham: "To your descendants I will give this land." (Genesis 12:7). To fulfil this promise the Israelites were commanded to take the land away from its inhabitants. Thus before his death, Moses instructed his successor Joshua that "the Lord your God... will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them" (Deuteronomy 31:3).

Through the centuries the Jewish nation has glorified this conquest and these words from holy writ have subtly shaped the Jewish psyche. For nearly two millennia the Jews have steadfastly and proudly proclaimed their absolute right to the entire land which God is said to have given them. In modern times this biblical image of the land flowing with milk and honey still continues to animate Jewish consciousness. Even among the most secular and assimilated there is a residual conviction that the

Promised Land belongs to the Jews alone. Yet it is precisely this doctrine which has blunted the moral sensitivity of the nation. In our enlightened age we must transcend the scriptural myth and admit that God could not and does not condone mass slaughter to fulfil his purposes. It is a mistake to believe that in ancient times he countenanced the use of force to subdue the inhabitants of the land. God is not the God of bloodshed; he is the Lord of mercy, a loving God who cares for all his people, gentile as well as Jew, Canaanite as well as Israelite.

The transgression which now requires atonement is the sin of prideful, unquestioning territorial possessiveness. In spite of scripture's assertions, the land of Israel belongs to the Jewish people not by divine right, but by international agreement. The biblical justification is nothing more than a religious rationalization for current political claims. In the modern world, the Jewish community is too frequently guilty of

using the biblical doctrine to deny the rights of others. On this new year the peering sound of the ram's horn — which is designed to stir the hearts of the Jewish people to attend to their sinful ways — should awaken the nation to the sin of arrogant, hard-heartedness and to the plight of the dispossessed.

Already there are signs that a fundamental change is now taking place within the Jewish world. Despite the resistance of right-wing activists, there has been a radical shift in Israeli attitudes. With the election of the Labour government, a new settlement policy has been formulated to deal with the Occupied Territories. No longer is there the desire to annex this land as part of a Greater Israel; rather Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has embarked on a new initiative. As the Middle-East process unfolds, it appears that the Israeli government will be pressing for a comprehensive solution which will provide for an administrative council for the Occupied Territories during an interim five-year period of auton-

omy. There is thus hope — as never before — that Arabs and Jews will be able to live together peacefully.

Hence this new year inaugurates an era of accommodation, an attitude far removed from the intransigence of the biblical past. It is now vital that the Jewish community divests itself once and for all of its ancient conviction that it has a divine right to the land. In ancient times such a doctrine led the nation to treat its neighbours with contempt; today similar attitudes must not be allowed to prevail. In the past the Jewish people, fighting for its survival, was blinded by religious doctrine. We, however, live in a different age; as we enter on this new year let us join together with the Psalmist in a prayer for co-operation and harmony:

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem...
"May they prosper who love you!"
For my brethren and companions' sake I will say "Peace be within you!"

Rabbi Dr Cohn-Sherbok is a visiting professor at Essex University.

APPRECIATIONS

Sir Geraint
Evans

MAY I add a small tribute to the warmth and humanity of the late Sir Geraint Evans (obituary, September 21)? Extremely late on the evening before his farewell performance at Covent Garden, and presentation to Prince Charles, which we were televising, I came upon Sir Geraint in the otherwise deserted Covent Garden car park. He was pushing a rather elderly car down the slope, and, needless to say, the sage-hand driving it was receiving a stream of rich, baritone instructions on how it might be started.

It had been a long, traumatic day of rehearsal, with the original tenor unavoidably recalled to Italy, but we got the engine started to Sir Geraint's satisfaction. With a cheery "Goodnight Bob bach, see you in the morning," he was into his own car and away.

R. W. Greenland

young performers, and after his retirement was able to devote much time and energy to that end. He played an active role in the Welsh College of Music and Drama, of which he was president. Sir Geraint was much more than a mere figurehead: his masterclasses inspired the young professional musicians (and drama students) and made him a well-loved figure amongst the next generation. Indeed, to celebrate his 70th birthday, the Sir Geraint Evans Scholarship Fund was established (to which he himself contributed) to aid deserving young musicians, and, in



July, Sir Geraint helped to audition the first students to receive the scholarship.

Edmond Fivel
Principal
Welsh College of
Music and Drama

YOUR obituary for Sir Geraint Evans is no doubt an accurate description of his career, but it does him less than justice as a picture of a man. Those of us who had the privilege of claiming his friendship knew him as the most human of individuals, full of fun, warmth and generosity. Welshmen have a reputation for wearing their hearts on their sleeves: in this respect Geraint was the epitome. He just did not know how to say "No" to requests for his help and support. Indeed, in some respects this may have been his undoing, because, in so-called retirement, he was forever giving way to requests for favours, notwithstanding the ill-health which forced him to bring his professional career to a premature end. He was a great man, a real human being, one whom it was an honour to know.

R. J. Webster

I HOPE you will allow me the opportunity to add to your very fine obituary of Sir Geraint Evans. He had always been an enthusiastic supporter of

Donald McDougall

Rt Rev Anthony
Tremlett

IN THE excellent obituary (August 28) and appreciations of Tony Tremlett no special mention has been made of his great love of children. They were an important part of his extended family and he would invariably find time to encourage and help them. It might be a special visit on their

behalf, tying shoe laces on the St Stephen's Parish holiday or even the purchase of a family dog. These children will always be thankful to Tony for his unfailing support for them as they grew up. Many of them now have children of their own but their lives will always be inspired by his deep Christian commitment and they will never forget him.

Mrs Celia Scott

SEPT 28 ON THIS DAY 1939

FIRST BUDGET OF
THE WAR

Sir John Simon opened his war budget in the House of Commons yesterday. The principal features are: Standard income-tax rate raised from 5s.6d. to 7s.6d.; reduced rate on the first £135 increased from 1s.8d. to 2s.4d.; surtax rates by amounts varying from 1.2d. to £2001 to 1s.2d. on £30,001 to £50,000; duty on estates from £10,000-£50,000 increased by 10 per cent; surcharge on estates over £50,000 raised from 10 to 20 per cent; excess profits tax of 60 per cent substituted for Armaments Profit Duty.

The spirit in which the House of Commons received the interim Budget yesterday is best illustrated by the fact that the only substantial cheer received by Sir John Simon from first to last was accorded to his references to the need for eliminating waste. For the rest of the time the House was good-humoured, as befitted an audience prepared to bear shocks bravely, but it found nothing imaginative enough in the Budget to arouse its enthusiasm or constructive enough to command its respect. This attitude is not unjustified.

Faced, on his own showing, with the necessity of planning for a three-years war which will involve vast and mounting expenditure, Sir John Simon has had recourse merely to heavy increases in existing taxes. The direct taxpayer will pay £76,000,000 more this year and

£160,000,000 more next year, mainly through an increase in the standard rate of the income-tax. The indirect taxpayer will pay £30,500,000 more this year and £66,500,000 more next year on all alcoholic drinks, tobacco and sugar.

The total increase in the revenue in a full year thus amounts to £226,000,000 and it will be supplemented by the yield of an excess profits tax at the rate of 60 per cent, assessed on the principles of the Armaments Profit Duty but not restricted to armaments firms. During the current year the total revenue will be about £995,000,000 to meet an expenditure of about £2,000,000,000. The amount to be borrowed will therefore be over a thousand millions, as compared with the estimate of £480,000,000 made just before the outbreak of war. And next year, though a great increase in revenue has been provided for, the gap to be filled by borrowing will undoubtedly be greater still. According to the Chancellor's own reckoning he proposes to take well over a quarter of the national income in taxation, and another quarter by borrowing in the current year. It is clearly incumbent on him to preserve both the source of his revenue and the level of the State's credit. He himself appealed to individuals to cut out all unnecessary capital expenditure in order to have savings to lend to the government.

GAS-MASKS AND BEARDS

To the Editor of *The Times*: Sir, Reading with concern of the monks who have cut off their beards in order to put on their gas-masks, may I put forward a suggestion for the comfort of bearded men who do not wish to lose this desirable adornment? Four curling-pins may be bought at the stores and the beard tightly rolled up in these and tucked up under the chin. The gas-mask is then drawn over the face, beard and all, and is perfectly all-right.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Peggy Pollard

BBC hit by £50m accounts error

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ERRORS by BBC accountants threaten to cost the corporation more than £50 million and ruin its chances of winning the ratings battle with ITV.

Department heads fear there will be cuts to make up the deficit, jeopardising the quality of next year's autumn schedules. The quality of ITV's output is expected to decline then, providing a clear opportunity for the BBC to take the lead.

An internal enquiry by independent auditors estimated early last week that BBC Television had overspent by about £50 million on a budget of £670 million so far this year. But it is now feared the sum could reach £70 million.

Monies devoted to programme genres, such as light entertainment, sport or drama, should cover output across both channels. But BBC accountants are alleged to have given sums in duplicate to both channel controllers. There is no evidence of fraud.

Discovery of the overspend came as the BBC announced 1,250 job losses in the support services two weeks ago as part of an efficiency drive. After the discovery, Julian Eklert, chief accountant of BBC Television for the past two years, was moved sideways to chief accountant of BBC engineering. A new position, financial controller television, has been created and John Smith, BBC chief accountant corporate finance, has taken up the post. He is understood to be closely involved in the internal enquiry.

Yesterday a BBC Television spokesman said that "no confirmable figures" had yet been unearthed by the enquiry. But several senior sources admitted that the figures being discussed by Will Wynn, managing director of BBC Television, and other key executives, were between £50 million and £70 million.

The spokesman said: "We are not denying that through proper scrutiny of the accounts that a projected overspend has been identified. But we can and will take corrective action to deal with it. There is no question of not coming in on budget at the end of this financial year."

The BBC's financial year ends in March, giving it six months to rectify the overspend.



Steaming back a replica of the locomotive Planet, originally designed by George and Robert Stephenson in 1836, going on a trial run at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester on Saturday (Kate Alderson writes). The Lord Mayor of Manchester will ride the replica locomotive on Friday for its first official journey, 162 years after the Planet first

operated between Liverpool and Manchester, the first railway to be run entirely by steam engines.

Volunteers from the group Friends of the Museum have spent five years building the replica Planet, using the Stephensons' original drawings, but modifying the engine's design to comply with modern safety standards. The

project cost £60,000, of which half was met by British Engine Insurance and the remainder from grants from the English Tourist Board and the government's Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme.

Visitors to the museum, in Manchester's Liverpool Road station, will be able to ride the Planet early next year or look at it in the

workshop. Also on display will be some of the original machine tools used by the museum's workshop team to make the replica components.

For the inaugural run on Friday, museum staff will wear original costumes, a brass band will play period tunes and Liverpool's Everyman Theatre will perform on the platform.

Ministers clash on two-speed Europe

Continued from page 1

over the weekend indicated growing reluctance for Britain to rejoin the ERM or to ratify the Maastricht treaty.

Mr Howard, one of the cabinet's minority of Eurosceptics, said yesterday that Britain would enjoy lower interest rates if it stood aside from Continental moves to form an inner core of EC states committed to economic and monetary union.

"It won't be the first time that people who think they are in the fast track come across a roadblock and are overtaken by people who are in what was falsely described by others as a slow track," Mr Howard said on London Weekend Television's *Walden* programme.

However, Mr Gummer, a supporter of closer European links, recoiled from the spectre of Britain remaining aloof from some of its Continental neighbours.

"There is no future for Britain in some sideline. We are in the centre of Europe and we intend to stay there," he said on BBC Radio 4's *The World this Week*.

Mr Howard said that the "setback" of Britain's withdrawal from the European exchange-rate mechanism presented the government with the opportunity of pursuing British interests free from some of the constraints that applied within the currency grid.

He said that, as the French authorities battled to defend the franc, lending rates had been raised to 13 per cent and unemployment had soared to over 3 million, the highest in the country's history. The British people were not prepared to pay such a price for the illusory benefits of being in the vanguard of European integration.

"What sort of reception do you think I would get if I told our homeowners, our business people, struggling to cope with the recession, 'we have got to have 13 per cent interest rates. We want to be in the first tier of the EC'?"

Germany, France and the Benelux countries are reportedly planning to form an inner core within the EC if the Maastricht blueprint for economic and monetary union throughout the Community has to be scrapped in the face of Danish and British hostility. Jacques Delors, president of the Brussels commission, and Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, have hinted at such a move.

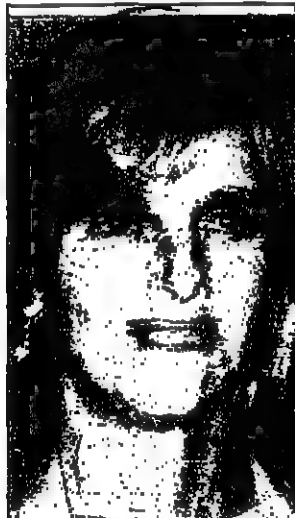
A fabulously wealthy family is still a girl's best friend

Continued from page 1

literature and entertainment may offer the best route to financial glory.

Chasing Ms Easton for pole position among rich female entertainers are Julie Andrews, Joan Collins, Paula Abdul, Cilla Black and Linda McCartney. In literature, Barbara Cartland is fending off Catherine Cookson, Shirley Conran, Jackie Collins and Rosemary Conley.

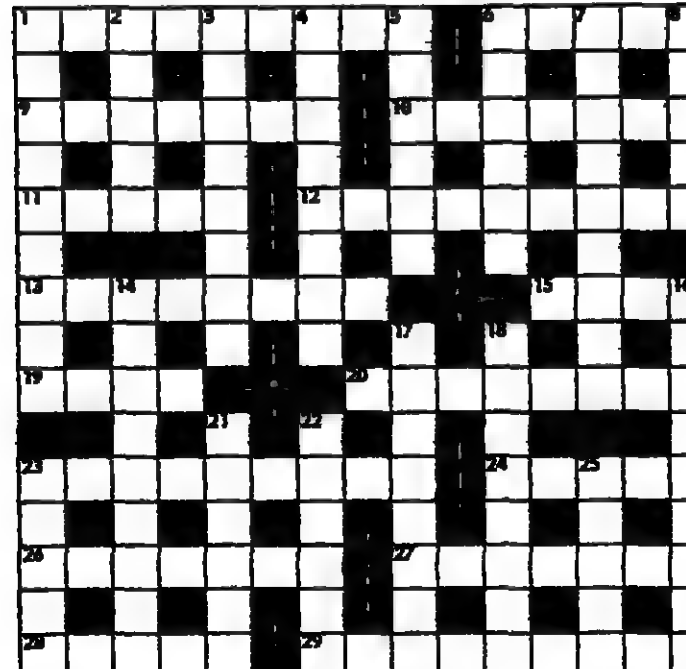
If you can dream up 100,000 words about a Geordie heroine now living in Malibu, whose flabby hips and thighs heave at the sight of a strong manly profile, and who runs a multinational business but still cooks dinner for her eight children, you might be able to wave goodbye to grass huts forever.



McCartney: first a rich father, then a rich husband

THE FIFTY RICHEST WOMEN IN BRITAIN									
Age	Name	Status	Wealth (£m)	Age	Name	Status	Wealth (£m)		
1	Christine Goulamrie	heiress	290.0	28	Olga Polizzi	widow	62.0		
2	Dorabella Moore	heiress	234.5	27	Larry Paula Brown	wife	49.0		
3	Vicomtesse Boyd	heiress	210.0	26	Isabel Goldsmith	heiress	49.0		
4	Lady Bridget Nease	heiress	205.0	28	Eva Baxter	businesswoman	47.5		
5	Lady Eleanor Glover	heiress	186.0	30	Hon Charlotte Morrison	heiress	47.0		
6	Patricia Morin	heiress	185.0	31	Lady Anya Salmebury	wife	40.0		
7	Lady Elizabeth Nugent	heiress	170.0	32	Anita Roddick	businesswoman	40.0		
8	Princess Victoria von Preussen	heiress	128.8	33	Angela Yeoman	wife	40.0		
9	Hil The Queen	heiress	128.0	34	Barbara Cartland	heiress	40.0		
10	Lady Anne Cavendish Bentinck	heiress	100.0	36	Mary Foulston	widow	39.5		
11	Duchess of Roxburghe	heiress	98.0	35	Shelma Easton	entrepreneur	38.4		
12	Lady Jane Willoughby de Eresby	heiress	97.0	37	Eva Larsson	wife	36.3		
13	Laurie Shrivvers	businesswoman	84.0	38	Linda McCartney	heiress	36.0		
14	Lady Anne Cavendish Bentinck	heiress	80.0	39	Greta Fennell	widow	36.0		
15	Courtesy of Sutherland	heiress	80.0	40	Vivien Duffield	heiress	35.5		
16	Pamela Hartman	widow	85.0	41	Christina Foyle	businesswoman	35.0		
17	Courtesy of Lichfield	heiress	78.0	42	Debbie Raymond	heiress	35.0		
18	Patricia Kluge	divorcee	70.0	43	Marla Phillips	widow	35.0		
19	Princess Antoinette von Preussen	heiress	64.5	44	Lady Sheila Butler	widow	34.8		
20	Hon Camille Acland	heiress	60.0	45	Doris Moore	widow	34.5		
21	Hon Mrs Buchanan	heiress	60.0	46	Hon Sarah Balfour	heiress	34.5		
22	Hon Mary Casimir	heiress	60.0	47	Lady Edna Somerset	widow	33.0		
23	Hon Jessica White	heiress	60.0	48	Marchioness of Normandy	heiress	31.8		
24	Lady Teresa Rothschild	widow	58.5	49	Meggi Bamford	wife	30.0		
25	Mary Mackinnon	businesswoman	55.0	50	Phyllis Somers	wife	30.0		

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,035



ACROSS

- Chafe about the silly ass's (4-5).
- Soldiers play cricket in Morocco (5).
- The line taken by the French is most offensive (7).
- Refresh with a mineral after an interval (7).
- Way to treat bread in health proposal (5).
- Quick to recover from inter-sterile pregnancy (9).
- Turn away a legal right and a note is made (8).
- Tip offered by many a social worker (4).
- Language that's a bit over-sentimental (4).
- It's odd about the cash squeeze (8).
- The speed at which people go! (5,4).
- A little nooter (5).

DOWN

- Disown touching disquisition (7).
- Fill up at it, as changing direction (7).
- Good quality stuff - Russian (5).
- The filer must take a stand about crumbly bread (9).
- Pastries served up doused in spirit would be excellent (5-4).
- A showy plant Scots can not produce (5).
- Establishing credit, being a consumer (8).
- Nothing but trouble - class is to close (8).
- Hector has captive artists (6).
- It's a sound axiom to retain a good man (6).
- An old missile that's making a comeback (9).
- Taking article on feet (5).
- Ten trains are to be diverted without delay (9).
- The handling of persons with complaints (9).
- Under pressure to give up sweets (8).
- He executed an order including scriptural books (8).
- Mounting use of private transport in the Aegean area (6).
- The players or the star (6).
- Note skill's required in this game (5).
- Everyone getting a rise (about a thousand) can be a beast (5).



The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,034 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker.

Concise crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

EPONYMS

- An American plumbing corporation
- Part of Robin Hood's band
- The East India Company

CHASSE-POOT

- A sleight for game
- An over-zealous supporter of
- A French title

CHAUVINIST

- A prejudiced male
- A bat researcher
- An over-zealous supporter of
- A mythical beast

GERMYNANDER

- An American builder
- An Irish patriot
- A mythical beast

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

- C. London (within N & S Circles) 731
- M4-M25 732
- M25-M4 733
- M4-M25 734
- M25-M4 735
- M25-M4 736
- M25-M4 737
- M25-M4 738
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- M25-M4 797
- M25-M4 798
- M25-M4 799
- M25-M4 800

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest report by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0881 500 followed by the appropriate code.

GREATER LONDON

GREATER LONDON: 701

GREATER LONDON: 702

GREATER LONDON: 703

GREATER LONDON: 704

GREATER LONDON: 705

GREATER LONDON: 706

GREATER LONDON: 707

GREATER LONDON: 708

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GREATER LONDON: 711

GREATER LONDON: 712

GREATER LONDON: 713

GREATER LONDON: 714

GREATER LONDON: 715

GREATER LONDON: 716

GREATER LONDON: 717

GREATER LONDON: 718

GREATER LONDON: 719

GREATER LONDON: 720

WEATHER

Dull in north-east England, eastern Scotland and the northern isles, with rain, drizzle and fog patches. Elsewhere fog will clear to become bright in the Midlands, central and southern England. Scattered showers and thunderstorms will develop in the South East and East Anglia. Cloudy in Northern Ireland and western Britain. Mostly dry. Warm in the South East, near normal elsewhere. Outlook heavy rain returning to the West.

ABROAD

MOON: 1 = moon, 2 = clouds, 3 = fog, 4 = rain, 5 = sun, 6 = snow, 7 = hail, 8 = sleet, 9 = drizzle, 10 = rain, 11 = sun, 12 = snow.

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IN THE NEWS

Doctor in the house at Brent Walker

GEORGE Walker somehow avoided personal bankruptcy last week, despite personal debts of £180 million. What odds on Brent Walker, the company he founded, continuing to avoid the corporate equivalent? Well don't ask George. It is not his problem. Ask Ken Scobie, the company doctor whose problem it most definitely is.

Do not be surprised if he gives you a quote. Scots-born accountant he may be, but his interest in figures does not stop with Brent Walker's devastated profit and loss account or its through-the-looking-glass balance sheet. Get him talking on bookies or casinos and, accents apart, it could almost be the voice of his boom-to-bust predecessor. Make no mistake, the bust-to-better corporate physician likes the business in his charge.

But that does not mean he gets to keep them all, despite a likely lack of evidence to the contrary in this week's interim results, the first since the tortuous 16 month refinancing was finally completed. Progress on selling the mish-mash of leisure-related properties and property-related leisure projects has been, not surprisingly, very slow. Mr Scobie is not dispirited. The signing in March of



Scobie: quotable

the refinancing document marked the beginning of his 22nd company rescue, not the end. Until then his hands had been tied by the 60 creditor banks.

Now the proper work can begin. Apart from asset disposals and developing the two businesses that will remain (William Hill, the bookmaker, and the Pubmaster chain) that means a lot of problem solving. The biggest of these is the £300 million dispute with Grand Metropolitan over the price paid for William Hill. An independent expert is expected to consider submissions very soon.

For a company that at the last count had negative net worth of £455 million it is monumentally understating the case to say that progress will be slow. But at 54 and with a six-year stint at Blackwood Hodge behind him, Ken Scobie feels more than ready for a last big challenge. As for those survival odds — better ask the banks.

MATTHEW BOND

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7100 (-0.0335)
German mark 2.5329 (-0.0771)
Exchange index 82.9 (-2.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1914.0 (+28.8)
FT-SE 100 2601.0 (+34.0)
New York Dow Jones 3250.32 (-76.73)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 18394.76 (+227.96)

Bush hurries to kick-start trade talks before election

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE troubled Bush administration is pressing hard for an agreement before the American presidential elections in early November to unblock the stalled world trade talks after having virtually reached a compromise deal with the European Community two weeks ago. President Bush is keen to notch a political "triumph" that would foster freer world trade and faster economic growth.

A compromise world trade pact with only modest reforms of agricultural subsidies has been firmly opposed by the American farm

lobby, but other industries, especially services, are strongly in favour of an agreement. The Cairns group of food exporting countries is also resigned to a limited compromise agreement. Politically, an accord could be marketed as a further extension of market economics within the framework of the new world order. Top trade negotiators from Washington and Brussels came close to reaching a deal at their latest attempt this month. Agricultural subsidies have been the core area of the transatlantic dispute which has blocked the almost six-year old Uruguay round negotiations on liberalised trade since the end of 1990.

Trade diplomats at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Geneva-based free trade body through which the Uruguay round is being conducted, have been both surprised and dismayed by the latest efforts to unblock the talks. Many had expected the whole process to be put off until after the American election. But word of near agreement only helped underline the elusiveness of a compromise, despite considerable movement by both Washington and Brussels in the past year, and the widely recognised economic imperative of a successful round.

The GATT governing council meet tomorrow to consider an American request for a

formal ruling on how much the Community must compensate its trading partners for lost exports arising from Community subsidies on oil seeds, such as rape and linseed. Washington has threatened to impose \$1 billion worth of sanctions against European food and drink imports to America, unless it obtained satisfaction on oil seeds.

The Bush administration's decision to dump 29 million tonnes of subsidised American wheat on the world market in the coming year has been seen as a way of winning farm votes in America, while also giving Washington added leverage to bring the Community to the bargaining table on a world trade accord. Among the GATT negotiators concern is mounting that the narrow French "yes" on the Maastricht Treaty will be used by Brussels as a delaying mechanism designed to wring greater concessions from a beleaguered President Bush.

A recent warning from Carla Hills, the American trade representative, that a Clinton victory would inevitably prevent Washington concluding an early trade deal gave support to the view that the administration is in a hurry. She said her fear was that reopening the GATT negotiations to satisfy the policy goals of a new administration could make an agreement even more difficult to achieve.

Dan-Air to ask investors for at least £30m

By MARTIN WALLER AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

AT least £30 million of fresh funds will have to be found by shareholders of Dan-Air, the embattled British airline, to keep the business going. The second refinancing will be needed whatever the outcome of negotiations with Richard Branson, head of Virgin Atlantic, for a marketing deal between the two airlines.

Davies & Newman, Dan-Air's holding company, has asked the Stock Exchange to suspend trading in its shares from this morning while the much-needed refinancing, and any deal with Mr Branson, are thrashed out. The move follows rumours that swept the airline industry last week that Dan-Air was in financial difficulties.

Banks are thought to have said that unless a substantial injection of capital could be arranged quickly, they might withdraw their support. Dan-Air does not have immediate cash problems following the latest holiday season, but that will start to change by the end of next month, when borrowings will start to mount again. If the refinancing is not in place by then, all those involved may be forced to reconsider.

David James, the company doctor trying to turn Davies & Newman round, approached a substantial group of his shareholders last week with an outline request for fresh funds. Although he would not state the amount needed, he is thought to have put two pro-

posals to them. Under the first, around £30 million would be needed merely to ensure the airline's survival past spring of next year. The danger period when borrowings will be at their highest. This is thought to be the minimum sum that will be countenanced by the banks.

Mr James's more ambitious proposal is thought to be for a larger sum that would allow some expansion of Dan-Air's marketing spend and other overheads, to build up the business for the future.

Mr James said last night that he and his board were "immensely encouraged" by the response of the selected institutions. "We felt we were thoroughly justified in going forward with the rest of the exercise," he said. Dan-Air insists that the proposed arrangement with Mr Branson would fall short of an outright merger with Virgin Atlantic, his airline. The Civil Aviation Authority, the industry regulator, confirmed it was closely monitoring the financial affairs of Dan-Air, as it would with any other airline.

Davies & Newman and Mr Branson said over the weekend that the talks to coordinate their respective marketing and operational activities were "an integral part" of the former's intended fundraising, but the talks' outcome would depend on approval of shareholders as well as the willingness of investors to support the fund-

raising. Mr James also denied weekend reports of hundreds of redundancies among Dan-Air's 2,500 staff employed at its Gatwick base. He described them as "pure speculation", although he conceded that some jobs could be lost if the two airlines' sales and marketing efforts were combined.

He was equally dismissive of suggestions that the CAA might be close to shutting down Dan-Air completely because of cash difficulties. "The CAA hasn't indicated to us any deadline. They are wholly relaxed on this issue and are giving us all the time and support reasonable," he said.

Any deal with Mr Branson is entirely dependent on a successful refinancing at Davies & Newman, by which the airline's very survival stands or falls. Mr Branson, who has been looking for a European-based airline to provide "feeder services" to his profitable long-haul flights, is also thought to be interested in the large number of Dan-Air take-off and landing slots which would become available if large parts of the airline were closed down.

His interest is especially strong because British Airways, his bitter rival, is known to have looked over Dan-Air and walked away, discouraged by its financial problems and convinced that no deal was possible. Mr Branson now wants to prove that he can succeed where BA was convinced it would fail.



The play's the thing: Peter Orton, managing director of HIT Entertainment with some of the Shakespeare series puppets

Shakespeare makes a palpable hit

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

PLANS to test 14-year-olds on Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* may have horrified Britain's schoolchildren, but they have delighted Peter Orton.

Mr Orton's company, HIT Entertainment, has completed a deal with BBC2 under which six Shakespeare plays, including the three just ordered into the curriculum by John Patten, the education secretary, will be screened as animated films in November. Six 30-minute scripts of *Shakespeare, the Animated*

Tales — the other three plays are *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *The Tempest* — have been adapted by Leon Garfield, the children's writer, in consultation with Professor Stanley Wells, an authority on Shakespeare. Mr Orton says the programmes are an ideal introduction to Shakespeare for schoolchildren, many of whom are more comfortable learning from a screen than from books.

HIT, founded just over two years ago by Mr Orton and colleagues from his days working with the late Jim

Henson, creator of the Muppets, has discovered a niche as an independent producer and packager of family television programming, and in particular raising finance for series based on literary properties.

Apart from the BBC and Sonyvision, the Russian studios where the animation was handled, HIT introduced partners such as Fuji, owner of Japan's largest TV station, and HBO, America's most successful pay-television network, to the Shakespeare project, which was created

and developed by S4C (Channel 4 Wales) at a cost of \$800,000 a play. In return for their money, investors receive certain broadcast rights in their own markets, while HIT retains worldwide video and television rights, and exploits spin-off potential.

HIT, 20 per cent owned by the quoted group Flextech, but otherwise largely owned by Mr Orton and his colleagues, has moved from a £189,000 loss in its first year to profits of £621,000 in 1991, on turnover of £5.29 million.

ICI chief backs one EC market

SIR Denis Henderson, chairman of ICI, has called on the government to make even greater efforts to ensure that the single European market comes fully into force at the beginning of next year after sterling's withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism.

In an article for *The Times*, he counsels against attempting to stimulate the domestic economy too quickly, which could not be sustained. But he welcomes the benefits of devaluation for exporters.

ICI was one of the strongest supporters of ERM entry, but Sir Denis said: "I am mightily relieved that the decision has been taken to float sterling." He argues that a return to currency stability and sustainable growth was essential to help rebuild business confidence.

"I do not think there is any realistic prospect of rejoining until our economic performance has improved significantly."

Best bet, page 20

Fraud office investigates Bank bribery allegations

By RICHARD FORD AND JONATHAN PRYNN

THE Serious Fraud Office is investigating allegations that Bank of England officials took bribes from executives of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Investigators from the fraud office, headed by George Staple, were brought in by the Bank after an internal enquiry was unable to substantiate claims that a briefcase containing \$100 bills was handed to two Bank of England officials during a party in London's Mayfair.

It is thought to be the first time this century that the Bank has referred an internal investigation to an outside agency. By doing so, it has highlighted its concern at the potential damage to its reputation from allegations made during the enquiry into BCCI's collapse.

The allegations were made initially to Lord Justice Bingham's enquiry into the Bank's handling of the collapse of BCCI which crashed with £10 billion debts in 1991. He alerted officials at the Bank

who carried out an exhaustive internal investigation but found nothing to support the serious charges.

An accountant and former Pakistani military intelligence officer is understood to have given sworn evidence to the Bingham enquiry that he saw a briefcase full of \$100 bills passed to two Bank of England officials at party held in a flat at the Dorchester Hotel in



Staple: called in

Park Lane, London. The accountant, referred to as "Mr X", told the enquiry how at a party in 1980, he saw Agha Hassan Abedi, the founder of BCCI, hand over a briefcase to a colleague. The briefcase was then passed to two Bank of England officials attending the party, who left straight away. Mr X said that earlier he had seen inside the briefcase, which he claimed contained \$100 bills. He named four Bank of England officials who attended BCCI parties.

A Bank of England spokesman said: "We are aware of the allegations that have been made. We have conducted extensive investigations ourselves but have uncovered not a shred of evidence to support the allegations."

Lord Justice Bingham was asked by the government to examine the Bank's supervision of BCCI. The report of his enquiry was passed to the government nearly two months ago but has not yet been published.

Some day, my boy, all this won't be yours

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE traditional notion of the private company, where father-to-son succession follows automatically and where both spend as much time as possible on the golf course, appears to be a thing of the past.

A survey by Pannell Kerr Forster, the accountant, and *Director* magazine says two thirds of owner-managers questioned claimed to work more than 50 hours a week. Two out of five thought the business to which they devoted so much effort would be sold privately on their departure, retirement or death.

Less than a quarter of the respondents, expected to hand the reins of office over to

another family member and only 4 per cent thought it might be floated on the Stock Exchange. Likewise, while more than a third had thought of selling the business over the past year, two thirds of them had thought in terms of a private or trade sale and again 4 per cent thought about a stock market float, while 16 per cent had considered closure.

The survey was carried out before the latest cut in interest rates and devaluation of the pound. Although 57 per cent believed it had been fairly and highly satisfying to run their business over the past year, two thirds believed the financial and material rewards had not improved and three quarters said the same of their quality of life. Holidays are being cut back in the recession — although a quarter nor-

mally took five or six weeks a year, only 15 per cent expected to in 1992. Perhaps unsurprisingly, private companies appear disillusioned with the help they have been receiving from the high street banks. Forty-four per cent of respondents rate bank managers as "distinctly unhelpful" over the past year, whereas only a small proportion say the same of other financial advisers such as accountants and lawyers.

□ The Association of British Factors and Discounters has given a warning that last week's cut in base rates, raising the prospect of even a modest pick-up in demand, may tempt small businesses into trouble over cash flow if they seek to trade their way out of difficulties too ambitiously.

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. THE STERLING EQUIVALENT OF YOUR LIABILITY UNDER A FOREIGN CURRENCY MORTGAGE MAY BE INCREASED BY EXCHANGE RATE MOVEMENTS.

SMALLER COMPANIES

Expanding textiles firm aims to be just-in-time

RECESSION has accelerated the pace of rationalisation in the textiles sector. Just-in-time sourcing is the name of the game and larger suppliers are better placed to cope with the increased demands arising from this change of emphasis.

One company seeking to take advantage is Worthington Group, a supplier of sewing threads, trimmings and buttons. Formerly a shell company with cash in hand, Worthington is now being pushed forward by Henry Schuldenfrei, the chief executive, a former merchant banker. He has set about creating a substantial operator in a highly fragmented market, supplying accessories for the textiles industry, achieving critical mass through the acquisition of smaller, family-owned companies. The plan was set in motion with the acquisition of Steinberger Holdings, a supplier of buttons and trimmings, for £1.98 million in 1990.

Corporate events then took a back seat while Mr Schuldenfrei strengthened the company's board. He has assumed an active role as chief executive and recruited Henry Knobil, who has 35 years of experience in the textiles industry, as a non-executive director.

Last month, Worthington made its most ambitious move yet, acquiring Hulme Holmberg and Atorp, two related companies manufacturing bindings used in clothing, for a total consideration of £2.25 million, financed through a three-for-four share issue. In 1991 Holmberg and Atorp earned profits of £520,000 on turnover of £4.2 million.

Worthington also reported profits of £462,000 (£524,000) before tax for the year to end-March, with earnings unchanged at 3.6p a share. The dividend for the year was up 87 per cent at 1.4p, reflecting the firm's true progress.

Following the rights issue, directors' combined holdings were reduced to 38 per cent of capital and three institutional investors were introduced. The shares traded at 31p, against a rights price of 31.5p.

MARTIN BARROW

Future of town hall insurer in balance

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

A DEAL to save Britain's largest insurer of local authorities and their staff hangs in the balance this week as council finance officers throughout England and Wales wait to hear if they will be able to renew their cover.

Senior executives at the loss-making Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) are due to fly to Paris to reassure Eurosafe, a group of French mutual insurance companies, that MMI still hopes will mount a rescue takeover plan. If the talks fail, councils will be forced to turn to the composite insurance groups or Lloyd's and will face dramatic increases in the cost of their insurance. Martin Pilgrim, the finance director of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said some councils have already tried to find alternative sources and "found it next to impossible or only available at a very high price".

Insurers new to underwriting public authority business are particularly wary of public liability cover, which authorities take out to protect themselves against claims in cases such as accidents involving loose paving stones. In the

worst case, MMI may be forced into liquidation and claims may not be fully met.

Public authority employees and tenants who are insured with MMI are protected by the Policyholders Protection Scheme, which covers them for 90 per cent of claims.

MMI, which was formed in 1903 and is Britain's ninth biggest insurance company, has seen its solvency dramatically eroded by heavy underwriting losses over the past two years. In 1990, it lost £140 million on its underwriting, and underwriting losses at its two main subsidiaries rose to £226 million last year. By the end of last year net assets had shrunk to £4.9 million, resulting in a heavily qualified opinion of its accounts by Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, its auditor. The company's solvency margin has fallen well below statutory requirements but the company is continuing to accept business while the talks with the French companies proceed. Earlier this year Maurice Stonefrost, the chairman, said the company remained solvent but had been in contact with the DTI about concerns over its solvency.



Falling margin: Maurice Stonefrost, MMI chairman, said there were solvency doubts

Robust Estonian kroon tracks the mighty mark

BY MART LUKK

SIIM Kallas, governor of the Eesti Pank, Estonia's central bank, could feel proud of his country's bold experiment in currency reform when he rubbed shoulders with fellow central bankers and finance ministers at the autumn monetary meetings in Washington last week.

Only a year after Estonia secured its independence from the former Soviet Union, and only three months since dropping the ruble, the Estonian kroon ranks among the few European currencies capable of keeping up with the German mark. In the East, Mr Kallas has watched ailing Russia struggling desperately to transform the ruble into a convertible currency. In the West, he has witnessed the mael-

strom that swept the pound and the lira out of the ERM and devalued the peseta. Neighbouring Finland was recently forced to abandon its self-imposed link to the ecu. Sweden had to impose 500 per cent overnight lending rates to prevent the same happening to the crown.

Through all this turbulence, the fledgling kroon, set firmly at eight to the German mark, has appeared unruffled. Its invisibility may have helped. The currency is mainly convertible inside Estonia, though it is also quoted by the leading Finnish commercial bank and a Swedish currency brokerage.

The sturdy new banknotes, printed in Britain, have held their value since the switch from the ruble on June 18-20, when Estonians were allowed to swap

a set amount of rubles for the new unit. Pioneering the break-out from the ruble zone has not been without its problems. Having allowed every Estonian resident to swap 1,500 rubles for 150 kroon, the central bank is now sitting on a 2.7 billion ruble mountain. There is no official kroon-ruble rate, although you can buy at 27 rubles per kroon on the black market, and the Estonian and Russian governments cannot agree on what to do with the surplus rubles.

Less than 50 per cent of exports now go to the former Soviet Union, compared with up to 90 per cent last year. Estonian economists think that if Estonia succeeds in its goal of redirecting exports to western markets, the kroon can be defended. It is backed by foreign exchange and gold, part of

which was returned by Britain, worth about DM200 million, to guarantee the new currency, plus free reserves of about DM50 million.

Although it is still early days, Mr Kallas said in Washington that Estonia "will not devalue the kroon." Kaupo Põllistik, the central bank spokesman, said there was no need to revalue in Estonia, "because the European currency markets are doing it for us". Strapped to the rising mark, the kroon has risen and risen.

Oddly, a strong currency appears to be no guarantee of low inflation. Estonian businessmen appear to have seen currency reform as an opportunity to jack up prices sharply.

In July they rose 24 per cent. In August they went up a further 16.7 per cent.

Pro Ned chief wants old boy network halted

BY OUR CITY STAFF

COMPANY chairmen should abandon the "old boy network" and use professional selection procedures based on merit in appointing non-executive directors to their boards.

The advice comes from Sir Adrian Cadbury, the chairman of Pro Ned, the organisation that backs the wider use of non-executives, and the author of a recent influential report on corporate governance. Pro Ned's managing director, Colin St Johnstone, said use of the old boy network is "outdated, amateur and... threatens the ability of boards to function effectively as a team."

Sir Adrian, writing in Pro Ned's tenth annual review, said the practice of using the traditional network for the selection of outside directors limited the diversity of views represented in the boardroom. He added: "Companies would benefit by drawing on a wider pool of talent and ability for board positions than is currently considered, and it would enable them to appoint more women."

Sir Adrian called on chairmen to involve the board as a whole in the selection of non-executive directors, preferably through a nomination committee that would agree on the skills and experience required. "The search should start with the task, not as it often does, with names," he said. The use of a formal selection process "is a reassurance to shareholders... that the names being put forward for appointment to the board have been chosen objectively and not through patronage."

The message was backed up by research from Pro Ned that showed that fewer than one third of the 600 non-executive appointments reported in 1991-2 were made through a professional process. Only 23 per cent of companies had prepared a job profile for a non-executive and only one third of non-executive directors had received a formal letter of appointment. Two thirds of outside directors said they had insufficient knowledge and understanding of what was expected of them.

A survey in *The Director* magazine shows that Sir Ro-

land Smith, who was once director of 11 public companies, is no longer Britain's favourite non-executive director. Peter Ryan, chairman of Torday & Carlisle and deputy chairman of troubled Davies & Newman, heads the list with eight directorships. George Duncan, chairman of Whesoe and Cobb Stenham, the former Unilever finance director who chairs Arjo Wiggins Appleton, are among six men with seven directorships each.

Ireland likely to raise rates

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE Irish government is expected to raise interest rates by at least two points to help protect the punt within the exchange-rate mechanism. Bertie Ahern, the finance minister, said: "Following the road we are travelling may hurt but it should only hurt in the short term."

In the two-week turmoil of the ERM, money market rates in Dublin have jumped to 20 per cent and the punt has come under pressure. The central bank, which has intervened to support the Irish currency, is expected to raise its key 10.75 per cent short-term facility rate this week.

Speaking before his departure for a meeting of European finance ministers in Brussels, Mr Ahern said that while there was an inevitability about the rise in rates, it was still disturbing.

Ireland has consistently ruled out any devaluation of its currency. But with sterling now at parity and beyond with the punt and one third of Irish exports going to Britain, it has been viewed as a tasty target by currency speculators. Ahern said: "I believe the pain is short-term. It may last for perhaps a quarter but it is a road we have to follow."

Ruling out the idea of a two-speed Europe, he said: "The idea of a fast and slow lane is not in anyone's interest."

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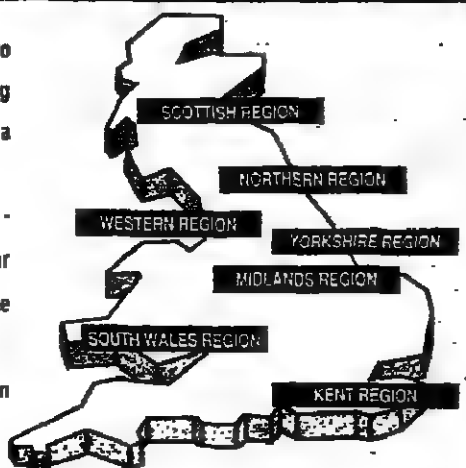
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Recoiling from "trust me" Lamont

As the dust settles, the view begins to clear. To discuss how "the gilt-edged market" has reacted makes no sense, because of the dramatic change in the shape of the yield curve. But the rise in very long-dated yields shows that the market does not like what it sees. Its concern is probably well founded.

We have moved, literally overnight, from a system that was exceptionally rigid in its operation and that gave the authorities virtually no room for manoeuvre, to a position where the government can do whatever it wants. Those who hailed ERM entry as a bold move that would put the UK on the path to non-inflationary growth are now calling sterling's withdrawal a liberation from a deflationary system that restores control over our own destiny. No wonder most people are confused.

With every day that passes, the commitment to re-enter the system "when circumstances allow" looks less convincing. Lower interest rates are welcome and anything that threatened them would be unacceptable. Parliamentary support for the ERM seems to have waned and Mr Lamont's sigh of relief when he could cut rates was audible in the City. The ERM is under enormous pressure and some reform of the system seems inevitable. The Maastricht treaty will not survive in its present form. Nevertheless, even if reforms made the system more palatable to the UK, the government might not willingly re-enter any binding constraint on policy for some time to come. The pendulum seems to have swung back to a preference for running our own affairs.

History tells us that the unrestricted operation of monetary policy in the UK has usually ended in crisis. The last time we left a fixed exchange rate system, in 1972, policy became too expansionary and the inevitable reaction followed. When the UK threw off the self-imposed shackles of monetary targets in the mid-1980s, the result was eventually higher inflation and subsequent retrenchment. Optimists will say that it need not end that way. The UK should be able to run an

internally oriented policy that does not end in disaster. This is the message Mr Lamont is trying to get across. He will "not take any risks with inflation". Interest rates will be raised again if necessary. The market is saying it is suspicious of this "trust me" approach.

The risks are not immediate ones. The disinflationary momentum is well established and the impact of recession on the labour market will continue for some time. The world background is conducive to low inflation. If policy is left to the discretion of the UK government, however, a reactionary bias will eventually appear that could push inflation well above the European average. It is because UK policymakers were thought to have exhibited such a bias that so many people welcomed entry into the ERM. If we stay outside, the bias will return - gradually, imperceptibly, but inevitably. There is one possible get-out clause. The establishment of an independent central bank might, if guaranteed, be another route to politically independent monetary policy. This idea has widespread support among

economists but fails to generate the same enthusiasm among politicians. Citing the Bundesbank as the appropriate role model will not, for the moment, further the cause.

The gilt market has another worry: the supply of gilt-edged stock has been heavy and will continue to be so in the medium term. Annual PSBRs of £30 billion to £40 billion will be with us for some time. Who will buy all these gilts? Overseas investors, who took half of all issues in the last financial year? UK institutions, many of which have tended recently to switch out of equities into gilts and are now regretting it?

Both these groups will buy more gilts. The Bank will sell the stock that is not in doubt over the longer term. The only question is the yield that investors will demand.

The shorter end of the curve will be protected by the fall in base rates and some funding might be accomplished as this occurs. But the funding will need to be spread along the curve. Investors who were enthusiastic buyers in the deflationary world of the ERM will be much less enthusiastic

in the pragmatic world of "trust me" policies.

For some time to come, falling interest rates, low inflation and some pick-up in growth will all be mutually consistent. Worries over funding might not apply for the rest of this year, given the Bank of England's massive intervention to support sterling. This might have covered most of the remaining funding requirement for this financial year - watch the reserves figures on Friday.

The market's reaction to recent upheavals is correct. The yield curve could move decisively to an upward slope and the only help the longer end might get is a lower level of real yields as demand for index-linked picks up. Pressure on yields might be hidden for a while, but if the UK stays outside the ERM and an independent central bank continues to be rejected, history tells you that, in the gilt market, pessimism pays. On current trends, we could see 10 per cent long-dated yields again in the coming year.

JOHN SHEPHERD
SG WARBURG

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock	Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price p	Yield %	1st Div p	2nd Div p
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
400 Fund 0% 1993	100	0.05	7.17			
900 Trust 0% 1993	200	0.25	8.17			
1,000 Trust 0% 1993	300	0.50	8.25			
1,100 Trust 0% 1993	400	0.50	8.25			
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COMMENT

Putting British industry first

Manufacturing industry is shrinking fast, threatening to limit economic recovery before it starts. The government put recovery to the fore with a cut in interest rates, but that good news was soon submerged in news of a series of production cuts, closures and deals for overseas sourcing. In the 1980-1 recession, there was such a steep fall in manufacturing that output did not recover to its 1979 level until 1988. In part, that was an adjustment to the impact of North Sea oil on the balance of payments and the exchange rate. Cutting out costs and uncompetitive businesses allowed other industries and services to deliver growth without running into a balance of payments constraint.

This time, there is a big trade gap at the trough of recession and industries are being forced to cut export capacity and production of goods competing with imports because the recession has lasted much longer than expected. Managers had to assume a high exchange rate, high interest rates and low growth. Industrialists do not want to contract or send jobs abroad, but cannot reverse these actions. They dare not take some romantic view of how things ought to be or assume sales will bounce back.

Even before the latest spate of cuts, manufacturing employment, which ran at 39 per cent in 1979, had fallen below that of many leading competitors, sadly not reflecting higher productivity in Britain. By 1991, less than 28 per cent of British workers were employed in industry, compared with 39 per cent in Germany, 34 per cent in Japan and almost 30 per cent in France, which has a bigger agricultural sector.

Not so long ago, a leading insolvency practitioner advised smaller businesses how to survive the recession. They should maximise cash flow from operations, minimise cash outflows on investment and development and be wary of optimistic overtrading when orders turned up. In other words, they should not hesitate to sacrifice future prospects for present survival. Such tactics must bear almost equally on big businesses. This is, in a sense, the ultimate expression of short-termism, but one imposed by economic realities, not City values or management myopia.

Little can be done to redress this in the short-term, but government should put industry at the top of its list of national priorities. As Sir Denis Henderson points out overleaf, what industry needs most is not an "industrial policy" but stable economic conditions and open markets. ERM entry was supposed to provide this but a steep and endless recession does as much damage as high inflation. Stability cannot be measured by one variable alone but implies flexible economic management to provide the most stable combination of interest and exchange rates, prices, taxes and demand growth available, given shocks and natural cycles.

Beyond that, industry needs support rather than interference or gimmicky tax measures. The government likes to think it has abandoned industrial engineering. It has not. Just as Labour forced businesses together. Conservatives are breaking them up. The electricity, gas, telecommunications and brewing industries have all been turned upside down. Imports of fertilisers, coal and building materials have been encouraged by official action. Some utility regulators have become interventionist industrial strategists rather than referees between monopoly suppliers and their consumers.

In Britain's international relations, efforts to promote the interests of business have had too little priority. It would be illuminating to compare the quality and quantity of Whitehall brainpower and ministerial time devoted to the affairs of the Balkans and the Middle East with that devoted to helping British distillers, confectioners, steelmakers, the London Stock Exchange or firms making cars in Britain. A revolution in attitude is required.

Cut base rates again now and flee forever from the ERM chain gang

Anatole Kaletsky says Britain must seize the chance to pull out of recession and eradicate inflation

The British establishment has an unerring ability to get the wrong end of the stick.

Economic policy has gone through the greatest upheaval since the ending of the gold standard in 1931. The government finally has a chance to pull Britain out of recession, permanently eradicate inflation and start the long process of reversing 50 years of decline as a manufacturing and trading nation. So what are cabinet ministers, political parties and media commentators arguing about? Whether to raise a treaty that has lost its meaning; whether to re-enter an exchange-rate mechanism that has ceased to exist; and whether to join the first, second, or third team in a race that has already been run.

Britain's relationship with Europe has been the big political story of the past five years, but this relationship has now been settled. So why do the political generals insist on fighting the last war? So deeply ingrained are the obsessional habits of political impotence learnt first under Mrs Thatcher's nannying and then in the ERM chain gang, most British politicians now seem too terrified to face up to the real decisions on economic management and public spending.

Instead such supposedly "can-do" Tories as Michael Heseltine, Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Clarke fall back on fantasies about rejoining the ERM and childish name-calling about "relegation to the second division of Europe" and being "left out in the cold". The fact that the cabinet can even be bothered to argue about rejoining the ERM, never mind split over it, shows how out of touch with both diplomatic and economic realities ministers have become.

Diplomatically, the Franco-German alliance has proved unshakable, as it was always bound to be. The idea that Britain ever had a chance of breaking into this alliance was pure Foreign Office fantasy. But Britain's exclusion has had nothing to do with being cold-shouldered or relegated to the second division. For the last 20 years, the Franco-German alliance has been quite specifically dedicated to the creation of a federalised, centralised, regulated, United States of Europe, of the kind

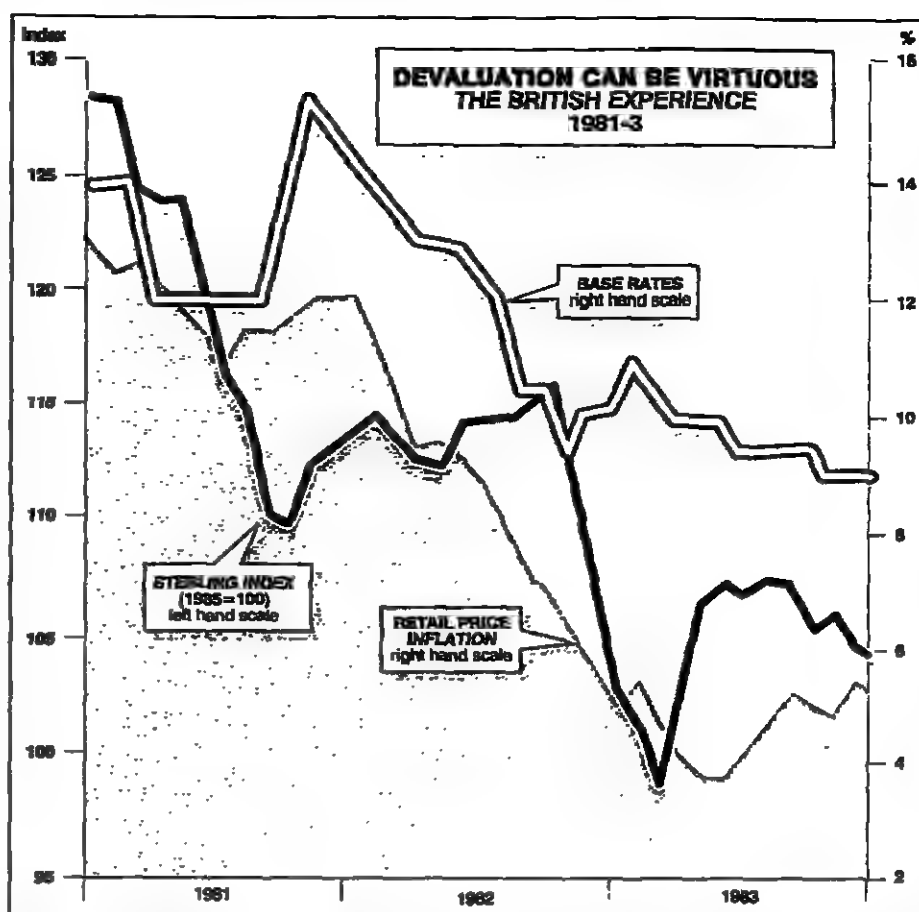
that John Major and the Conservative party have quite specifically promised to prevent. If Britain is kept out of this alliance, it is not because Fritz and Gaston despise John Bull for not being able to keep up his exchange rate. It is because Germany and France want to achieve something that Britain actually wants to stop.

British diplomats have always been notorious self-deceivers, but economic and financial ignorance that pervades the debate about rejoining the ERM, not only in the cabinet but also among the practical men of the CBI and the business community, comes as a greater shock.

Do Mr Heseltine and the other Euro-enthusiasts not understand the ERM Britain joined in October 1990 has simply ceased to exist? Even if Britain were to re-enter the ERM, it would be bracketed irrevocably with Italy, Spain and the other devaluing countries that pointedly did not enjoy the support of the German government and Bundesbank. The reconstructed ERM would inevitably be a multi-tier system, and membership would in no way raise the credibility, either of sterling's exchange rate or the government's anti-inflationary commitment.

In fact, promises of rejoining the ERM would have the opposite effect. They would convince financial markets, consumers and industrialists that the government was still not serious about reviving the economy and still incapable of devising and maintaining a domestic policy to control inflation. Far from reassuring foreign investors in Britain, the idea of rejoining the ERM any time in the foreseeable future would guarantee another run on the pound.

If ministers doubt this, they have only to speak to the international investment managers who have been pouring money into the British stock market since the devaluation, on the assumption that Britain in the next few years will have the fastest-growing industrial economy in Europe. But rejoining the ERM would be a policy of Solomonian wisdom compared with the idea of informally stabilising sterling against the mark outside the ERM in what is called a "dirty floor". That this idea can even get a serious hearing in the cabinet beggars belief. Have



ministers forgotten the folly of ERM membership was preceded by Nigel Lawson's even greater folly of "shadowing the mark"? This was the policy essentially responsible both for the inflation of the late 1980s and the subsequent slump.

Britain's addition to overvalued exchange rates might make a fascinating study in economic history and national psychology, but only one argument is relevant now. This is the claim that a declining currency inevitably produces inflation, while a stable currency guarantees stable prices. The prime minister, and many businessmen and financial investors, still seems to believe this. But it is simply untrue.

The clearest evidence for the absence of any direct relationship between the exchange rate and inflation is offered not by arcane economic theories or the experiences of Third

World countries, but by what happened in Britain a few years ago. Between 1981 and 1983, the pound fell 40 per cent against the dollar and 25 per cent against the mark and on its trade-weighted index.

Over the same period, inflation fell sharply, as the chart illustrates. This fall in inflation had nothing to do with distortions in the retail prices index and was only slightly helped by the fall in the world oil price. Nor was it a purely temporary phenomenon, flattered by lags between devaluation and rising prices. The deflator for private consumption, the broadest and least distorted inflation measure, fell from 11.2 per cent in 1981 to 4.8 per cent in 1983 and did not rise significantly until 1989. The growth

of nominal compensation per employee, the broadest measure of wage trends, also fell steadily in the period of devaluation — from 14 per cent in 1981 to 5.4 per cent in 1984.

From 1985, wage growth did start to accelerate slightly but it was not until 1988 that this underlying cause of inflation really took off. By that time, the economy clearly required a touch of deceleration. But this was precisely the time when Mr Lawson started shadowing the mark and using the exchange rate as the main indicator of how his anti-inflationary policy was working. In fact, the exchange rate gave exactly the wrong signals.

In 1987 and 1988, the currency markets were bidding up sterling, and Mr Lawson concluded inflation was not a danger. In 1988 and 1989, the pound started collapsing, suggesting a steady tightening

of monetary policy when the economy was already heading down.

That sterling sent out all the wrong signals on inflation should not have been surprising, since exchange rates in deregulated markets are strongly influenced by economic growth. This is why the brave international investors who are starting to rebuild their asset positions in Britain are terrified of the prospect of ERM re-entry.

The best thing the government could do to increase international confidence in Britain would be to announce unequivocally Britain would not rejoin the ERM in the foreseeable future and there will be no question of shadowing the mark or trying to stabilise the pound in any other way. But Mr Major should also promise to ratify the Maastricht treaty. This treaty would be a dead letter anyway in Britain due to the opt-out clauses; to block its ratification would be a pointless gesture of hostility to Europe, with no benefits at home.

Having abandoned exchange rate targeting, the government must urgently announce a domestic policy against inflation and in favour of economic growth. I shall examine the options for such a policy in detail in the weeks ahead, but there are two things the government should make clear at once. Firstly, the centrepiece of anti-inflationary policy must be a remorseless squeeze on wages and current spending in the public sector. Secondly, there must be sharp cuts in interest rates to regenerate British enterprise and stimulate private investment and growth.

Instead of playing trivial pursuits with definitions of ERM membership, Maastricht, and two-speed Europe, ministers should pull themselves together and make their first real decision for two years. They should cut two percentage points immediately off bank base rates and announce a total freeze on public sector wages. There is neither a need nor a reason to wait.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Moon raver

THE highly secretive University Superannuation Pension Fund — "We do not hand out any information to the press," says its switchboard operator — is in for a change. Almost exactly a year after Jack Spink left its employ in disgrace, a successor has been found. Peter Moon, at present investment manager of British Airways Pension Fund, joins on November 2 as its chief investment officer. Moon, 42, will almost double the amount of funds under his control, from £4 billion to £7 billion. "The major attraction for me is the huge cash flow of £500 million per annum, because it is such a young fund, set up in the 1970s," raves Moon. He is optimistic long-term about the UK stock market, but pessimistic short term. "The UK market has been too optimistic short term. I think interest rates will creep up again. But longer term, over ten years, I think opportunities in the UK equities market have got to be better than the bond market." As for the University Superannuation Pension Fund, funded by college professionals, Moon says, "It's going to be absolutely massive."

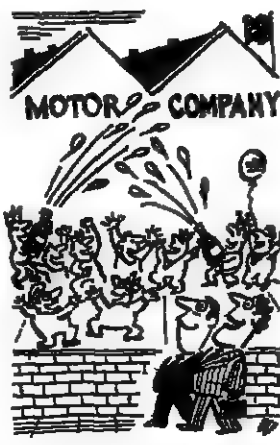
Retread time

AFTER Britain's two-year relationship with the exchange rate mechanism ended in separation, spare a thought for those involved in yet another Euro saga. The Pirelli-Continental bid battle, which began two years ago this month, Shandwick's Tim Thompson

has handled Continental's PR throughout and says, "If this doesn't show the need for common European takeover codes, nothing does". Thompson has had the job of educating European journalists about hostile takeovers and has not stopped short of smuggling a passport-less British journalist into Germany to get coverage for Continental as the hour required. "It has been intense, but with periods that were relatively quiet," he says. "If it had all been done at the pitch of a UK takeover battle for two years, I'd probably be six foot under by now." The two tyre companies are now embroiled in the German courts with no end in sight.

Return tour

DAVID Jackson, investment manager at Save & Prosper, now a subsidiary of Robert Fleming, left last week without a job to go to. While seeking employment he can take little comfort from the fact that he has been swiftly replaced by Michael Ashbridge, from Lloyds Bank Ashbridge, who worked for Save & Prosper three years ago, is seen by those who worked with him before as a steady and sensible hand at the tiller, and his return is a popular choice. It is accepted that both Save & Prosper's and Fleming's investment record needs to be improved. "He is coming back to head Save & Prosper's UK unit trust division. There has been a tremendous improvement in the international performance of Save & Prosper's unit trust management but the performance of the UK funds has lagged behind," says Ash-



"They must have sold one"

bridge's new boss, Iain Saunders, Fleming Investment Management chairman.

Gin palaces

THE world is being asked to review its sometimes unfavourable image of Belfast through the bottom of a piece of glass, or rather, the bottom of a gin bottle. Belfast Dry Gin, the city's latest export product, has just been launched in the presence of Northern Ireland Office minister Robert Atkins. "Through the export of a quality product, such as Belfast Dry Gin, there is an opportunity to promote a positive image of Northern Ireland at home and abroad," Atkins said. The new gin capitalises on Belfast's maritime tradition. The bottle picks up the theme and the golden age of sea travel when Belfast built great liners. Embossed on the bottle are images of such vessels as *Britannica*, *Olympia*, *Oceanic* and *Titanic*. The contents will hopefully prove just as sinkable.

Hard times

WHILE economic austerity is hitting Kuwait, with Naser Al Roudhman, the finance minister, tightening the screws on rival ministerial budgets, it is heartening to know Ali Rashid Al Bader. Al Roudhman's recent appointee in the Kuwait Investment Office, has finally found a suitable abode, thereby ensuring his stay in Britain will at least be comfortable. The KIO has spent nearly £4 million acquiring a mansion in Highgate, north London, for his use, complete with swimming pool and eight-person jacuzzi, and another £1 million will now be spent on refurbishing and extending.

Old order

TOMORROW'S conference on business and the new world order, arranged by the British-American Chamber of Commerce at the New Connaught Rooms in memory of Churchill and Roosevelt's friendship, has an oddly dated feel. Speakers include Sir Roland Smith, former British Aerospace chairman, on government's role in the private sector and Robert Horan, ex-BP chairman, on the future role of the multinational, while Robin Leigh-Pemberton's speech on the role of international financial institutions may have seen some redrafting in recent weeks. The organisers quote Roosevelt's tribute to Churchill: "It's fun to be in the same decade as you." Which decade?

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The single market is still our best bet

Sir Denys Henderson believes that any change to Britain's economic policies must reconcile dogma and business reality

Business confidence is currently at a very low ebb, not only because of the recent currency debate, but mainly because for some time now, recession and the heavy debt burden incurred in the late 1980s have savaged industrial activity in this country and reduced considerably our domestic customer base.

While there is an understandable plea for an urgent reappraisal of the government's economic policy, it nevertheless seems to me that a brief period of calm reflection on what has happened and what the future may hold for this country as part of the EEC is vastly preferable to precipitate action which may not be sustainable in the medium-term. Carefully considered measures are urgently required to restore to this country some measure of economic growth, currency stability and a demonstrable commitment to the completion of the single European market, which is due to come into being on January 1, 1993. All three are absolutely essential if UK business is to be given the opportunity to improve its performance in a world which is suffering from a long, widespread and still continuing recession.

I was, am, and will remain a strong advocate of the single European market and the UK's wholehearted participation in the world's largest and most important trading bloc. Viewed from the vantage point of the chemical industry, the

UK is simply too small a market on its own to which to base an increasingly global business. For that reason ICI, which sells more of its products in the rest of the EEC than in our own country, has been carefully building its position in continental Europe for 30 years.

As a key element of participation in Community matters, I originally believed that the UK should belong to the ERM, although the parity of 2.95 marks at which we joined in October 1990 was higher than was commercially desirable. I felt at the time that the UK would be able to cope with that as part of the important process of achieving the low

rate of inflation necessary to achieve better corporate profitability and to reduce our apparently endemic current account trade deficit. However, no one at the point of UK entry in 1990 foresaw the penal costs of German reunification and the subsequent need to keep interest rates exceptionally high to reduce German inflation and to attract the capital which they required to fund reunification. Nor did we foresee that the current world recession would continue as long as it has.

Consequently, in recent months, it has become evident that the requirements of the German economy are seriously inconsistent with business needs in the UK and that the tensions within the ERM had grown to the point where something finally had to give. For the past 18 months or



Calling for calm: Sir Denys warns against policy action that may not be sustainable

so, I have believed strongly that we desperately need a stimulus to growth from lower interest rates, which would help to ease both the debt burden being carried by corporations and individuals, as well as the cost of servicing the high level of bank borrowings in the country. Action has also clearly been needed to assist UK exports which have been suffering from the unrealistically high value of sterling. This was particularly evident against the dollar, not just in the US but also in other

countries which trade in dollar denominated goods. When the decision was taken to float sterling, I was in the US and therefore that much further removed from what was seen by my American friends as European frenzy.

Closer to home, you did not need to be a skilled economist to know that no American tourist would exchange two dollars for one pound sterling when it was possible to buy in the United States for one dollar approximately what could be bought for one pound

in this country. It is not surprising that American tourists have been in short supply in Oxford Street this summer! Despite my earlier support for our entry to the ERM, I am now relieved that the decision has been taken to float sterling. It will certainly make life less difficult for those of us who are substantial exporters, but in itself it is no universal panacea for our current economic malaise. While the recent one point cut in interest rates is welcome, I suspect that further reductions may have to

be modest and must be carefully phased to take account of the way the financial markets value the floating pound.

If sterling is to rejoin the ERM greater flexibility looks essential. But assuming the mechanism survives current turbulence, at some later stage I believe it could still be desirable to try again for the reasons given in the first place: stability and the need to ensure that there is a disciplined framework within which this country is compelled to match the productivity of its best European competitors. We must not lose the lower inflation base, which has been so painfully achieved in the past two years, if we are to rebuild manufacturing industry in this country.

But I do not think there is any realistic prospect of rejoining until our economic performance has improved significantly and the process of support provided by ERM members to those whose currency is under attack can be demonstrably more effective and even handed than has been the case recently.

Share prices may have reacted favourably to recent events, but they are likely to remain volatile while we remain in the grip of a recession from which there is no easy escape.

To return to a sustained growth track, we need to bend every sine wave towards making the single European market really work effectively from January 1, 1993. Governments must also make a comprehensive last-ditch effort to complete the general agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) negotiations, which is probably the best route to restore business confidence to invest again.

It is highly desirable for there to be consistency in this country's economic policies, but not to the extent that ideology cannot be reconciled with economic reality. The writer is Chairman of ICI

PORTFOLIO PLUS

New-look shares game can now be played every day

Portfolio, the stock market based game which readers of *The Times* have been enjoying since 1984, takes on a new dimension today. It becomes Portfolio Plus with the option of being played seven days a week. Monday to Saturday there will be £2,000 to be won each day plus £5,000 on Sundays.

Company performances on the stock market, shown in the share listings page in *The Times*, are the basis of the Monday to Saturday game and on Sundays scores depend on the top 100 companies listed in *The Sunday Times* Business section. Portfolio Plus should add an extra zing to life with its appeal of playing the market without the risk of getting burned fingers.

Ann Wild, married with four children and an assistant laboratory technical officer, is a long-time reader of *The Times* who had a £2,000 Portfolio win last April. She has been a Portfolio fan since it started.

She said: "I never really expected to win — that was quite a shock — but Portfolio is a lot of fun with that extra frisson because of the prizes." Her feelings were echoed by Margaret Harrison, a retired personal assistant to a company chairman, who is another long-term Portfolio player living in Norbury, London. Miss Harrison's £2,000 win has helped buy a replacement car.

Dr David Wilkinson, recently retired as a general practitioner, won £2,000 on

Portfolio in the early years and then last April landed another £8,000. He said: "Portfolio makes a good start to the day although I'm startled I've won twice. I suppose there must be a touch of greed in there somewhere."

Today's new game means fresh cards are being distributed, each with a unique set of numbers. One card can be used for play in either, or both, newspapers according to choice. For those checking the lists in both papers there can be an extra £1,000 bonus.

Portfolio Plus works like this. The card numbers each day identify a portfolio of eight companies. By checking the performance of the companies, adding up share increases and subtracting price decreases, you strike a dividend figure. If that matches with the target dividend declared in the paper you win or share the prize money.

If nobody matches the published dividend the prize money rolls over to the next day's jackpot in *The Times* game and the following Sunday with *The Sunday Times*.

Readers who have not received a Portfolio Plus card and would like one sent to them should write to: Portfolio Plus, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ, or telephone: 0254 683555 (Monday-Friday, 9am to 5.30pm).

Portfolio Plus, page 21

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Forte to check in with battered profits

THE deep recession's impact on consumer spending will again take its toll on profits at Forte, the international hotels and catering group headed by Rocco Forte.

Carr Kitcat & Aitken expects Britain's largest hotelier to report a slide in first half pre-tax profits, due on Thursday, to about £31 million, against £42 million last time. Market forecasts range from £25 million to £37 million. A maintained interim dividend of 2.75p is anticipated.

Analysts think the first half has been "fairly disappointing", with no substantial recovery in Britain, especially as the comparative period was depressed by the Gulf War. Both business and leisure travel has slowed in the UK, which is where Forte makes most of its hotel profits.

Analysts will pay close attention to current trading as well as future prospects and the group's expectations on the timing of a recovery. News is also awaited on the future of Gardner Merchant, the catering division that Forte failed to sell to Compass Group and America's ARA Services.

TODAY
Interview: Greenwood Grp, Holt (Jocelyn), How Grp, Limerick, Motec.
Finance: GT Japan Inv Trst.
Economic statistics: Engineering sales and orders (July)



Waiting it out: Rocco Forte is expected to report figures down by some £11 million

TOMORROW

Sears, the Selfridges-to-footwear group, is expected to report £22.5 million interim pre-tax profits (£22.8 million), according to Julie Ramshaw, at Morgan Stanley. Market forecasts range from £18 million to £23 million. Morgan expects a maintained 1.53p interim, although some predict a cut.

Interim: Boosey & Hawkes, British

Shoe Corp, Broadwater Higgs, Global Group, Freshwick Higgs, Richards Group, Sears, Sherwood Group, Smurfit (Jefferson), T & S Stores, TR High Income Trst (SIL), Wells (Belle Beaumont), Plastic British Building & Engineering Appliances, Surrey Group, Thorpe (FW).

Economic statistics: London sterling certificates of deposit (August), monetary and money market statistics (including bank and building society balance sheets), personal income and expenditure (second quarter), quarterly analysis of bank advances, industrial and commercial companies (second quarter).

WEDNESDAY

Bank of Scotland, which has about half of its loan book in England, is expected to report flat first half pre-tax profits of about £72 million, according to Michael Lever at Smith New Court. A dividend of 1.82p (1.7p) is predicted. Market forecasts range from £50 million to £80 million.

Interim: Anglo Pacific Resources, Aran Energy, BLP Group, Bank of Scotland, Barad Higgs, Blockleys, Bostrom, Brent Walker Group, Cambridge Isotope Laboratories.

Smith thinks provisions are on a rising trend. They are expected to be up about 14 per cent to £142 million. The results are likely to confirm the anecdotal evidence that the recession is biting in Scotland, although depressed conditions may be easing in the south east.

Depressed British sales as the bleak conditions continue, will help to drag Rattlers Group, the jewellery group, to a first half pre-tax loss of £27 million, against a deficit of £18.3 million last time, according to Morgan Stanley.

Forecasts of losses range from £20 million to £30 million. No dividend is anticipated, compared with 2.4p last time.

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FRIDAY

Interview: Ash & Lacy, Bilton, Clifford Foods, Martin (Robert) Higgs, Reed Executive, Scottish Television, Wilkes (James).

Finance: Advent, Economic statistics: UK official reserves (September).

THURSDAY

Redland, the building materials group, is expected to turn in first half pre-tax profits of £87.5 million (£78.8 million), according to Robert Donald at County NatWest WoodMac. Market forecasts range from £75 million to £93 million. Profits will be boosted by a partial contribution from Steeley and a significant exposure to Germany.

Amstrad, the consumer electronics group, is expected to turn in a final pre-tax loss of £65 million, against a profit of £20.2 million last year, according to UBS Phillips & Drew. A dividend of 0.8p (0.4p) is anticipated. Attention will no doubt focus on whether Alan Sugar will use the occasion to launch a 30p share bid for the 65 per cent of Amstrad he does not own, for which he has been seeking finance.

Interview: Alston, Andis Property Higgs, Denslow, Ford, Fortis, Redland.

Finance: Amstrad, Beckman (A), Cornwall Parfums, Elcop Higgs, Frognore Estates, Pict Petroleum.

FRIDAY

Interview: Ash & Lacy, Bilton, Clifford Foods, Martin (Robert) Higgs, Reed Executive, Scottish Television, Wilkes (James).

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PHILIP FANGALOS

Whitbread and Guinness wage the war of the widget

Martin Waller describes how a small plastic device is adding fizz to Britain's take-home canned beer market

A RECENT survey commissioned by the Brewers Society claimed, not without a whiff of self-interest, that the pub was still the most popular place for adults to go out in Britain. Strangely, most of the biggest members of the society are spending millions to develop technology that will turn every living room into a pub in the stay-at-home 1990s.

This is the aim of the "widget" — now being fought to create the perfect case-conditioned canned beer, indistinguishable from the product of the four-ale bar but available from the supermarket and the off-licence.

An empty can of Britain's best-selling take-home beer is distinguishable from the average discarded lager can in two ways. Weigh it in the hand and it feels slightly heavier; cut off the top, and lying on the bottom is a small plastic disk, known to the trade as the widget.

Boddingtons brewing business, acquired at the end of 1989 by Whitbread, has grown its volume share of the take-home bitter market from an insignificant 1.5 per cent to a best-selling 7.2 per cent in just a year. The premium that can be charged for the product means that of every £10 spent in that market, more than £1 is on Boddingtons.

Guinness, the name synonymous with stout, is gaining acceptance and sales for its canned bitter while the other big brewers are reckoned to be working feverishly on their own versions of the all-important widget while marketing heavily their own half-way house versions, bitter brands that rely on a process called nitrogen flushing.

The story of the widget

started in the mid-1980s when Guinness, whose brilliant marketing had transformed the stout from the drink of an elderly and shrinking market into the choice tipple of the marketing man's Holy Grail, the high-earning, free-spending late 20s and early 30s, started to look to extend that success into the take-home market. The exist-

ing Guinness in a can, an astringent, treacly product with an aftertaste, some said, of cigarette stubs, was something of an acquired taste.

To create something closer to the product available in the best Irish pubs, Guinness spent £5 million producing the first widget, or In-Can System (ICS). Nitrogen in the widget expands and is mixed with the stout to give an immediate and long-lasting head.

The product, launched in March 1989, won a Queen's Award for Technological Achievement in 1991 and is the eighth biggest-selling take-home beer. Guinness is spending £30 million this year promoting it.

Guinness's invention was well protected by patents, and Whitbread, owner of Murphy's Stout, needed to tackle the new product head-on without infringing them. So Whitbread spent another £5 to £10 million producing a parallel technology, the Draught-flow system, that had the same effect.

"Once we had found a way of doing this, we obviously realised that this could have a very big effect on the bitter as well as the stout market," says Steve Philpott, marketing director at the Whitbread Beer Company.

The ideal brand was the already esteemed Boddingtons. "Clearly it's more expensive to produce, and I'm sure that for some time it will

be selling at a significant premium," he said.

Too true. Whitbread is able to sell a four-pack of Boddingtons for just short of £4 in a supermarket, against £1 less for the same beer in non-widget form, still for sale in the North, and as little as £2.50 for the equivalent quantity of John Smith's, the Courage-owned brand toppled from the number one slot by Boddingtons for the first time this summer.

This month's impending launch by Whitbread of three more widget-enhanced regional brands, Flowers Original, Castle Eden and Marton's Pedigree, therefore comes as little surprise. Mr Philpott believes that in a few years at least half the cans opened in British homes will contain a widget.

The problem for the other big brewers chasing their own versions is that there are a limited number of parallel technologies that can be developed without infringing patents. Some may be left to rely on nitrogen flushing, which replaces some of the carbon dioxide in traditional canned beer but not to the minimal level found in pub beer.

Nitrogen flushing is currently used by Bass for Draught Bass, by Courage for Directors bitter, and by Allied-Lyons for its Burton brand. Their shares of the take-home beer market are modest, Bass faring best with 1.1 per cent.

Eventually, at the bottom of the market will be the cheap and cheerful brands for the less discerning drinker who prefers quantity to quality: successors of the Party Fours of unlamented and dyspeptic memory.

At the top end will be the widget-powered brews. Real ale fans may scoff, but Mr Philpott claims that in a tasting of both types of Boddington two thirds of people were unable to distinguish between them. He said: "We would eventually expect to see the development of a very significant sector of the market that uses this technology."

The question for the industry, insisted Philip Waller, drinks analyst at Warburg Securities, is whether the coming of the widget has increased total beer sales or merely stolen sales from ordinary cans or from the local pub.

On that subject, pending the arrival of a reliable run of statistics, the jury is still out, although as he pointed out, take-home sales have traditionally been limited to 20 per cent of the total market for beer because of the poor standard of the product.

"I think the widget is here to stay," he concluded, "because the consumers have voted with their feet wholeheartedly for a good product."

COMPANY BRIEFS

HEADWAY (Fin)
Pre-tax: £837,000
EPS: 4.1p (4.3p)
Div: 0.7p (0.7p)

HONEYWICKLE GROUP
Pre-tax: £240,435
EPS: 6.3p (2.0p)
Div: 1p

MCLAUGHLIN & HARVEY
Pre-tax: £306,000 Loss
EPS: 5.5p (7.5p)
Div: Nil (nil)

GARTON ENGINEERING
Pre-tax: £37,000
EPS: 0.63p (2.75p)
Div: 1.00p (1.75p)

JACKS (WILLIAM) (Int)
Pre-tax: £1,000
EPS: 0.96p (5.56p)
Div: Nil

MULTITRUST (Fin)
Pre-tax: £120,723
EPS: 1.50p (1.61p)
Div: 1p, mkg 2.5p

SHELDON JONES (Fin)
Pre-tax: £288,000 Loss
EPS: 14.75p (0.89p)
Div: Nil (2.56p)

WATERMAN PARTNERSHIP
Pre-tax: £2,72m Loss
EPS: 10.6p (EPS: 0.2p)
Div: 0.5p, mkg 1p (2p)

DONELON TYSON (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.02m (£1.45m)
EPS: 1.55p (2.06p)
Div: Nil

ARDAGH (Fin)
Pre-tax: £4,21m (£4.95m)
EPS: 11.18p (12.38p)
Div: 2.35p, mkg 3.115p

Last time's profit was £806,000. There was an exceptional credit of £285,000. Turnover declined to £28.3m (£40.7m).

Final results. Last time's profit was £275,037. There was an extraordinary credit of £239,000. Turnover fell to £13.8m (£18.7m).

Interim results. Turnover declined to £31.4m (£55.5m). There was an overall exceptional gain of £491,000.

Interim results. Last time's profit was £181,000. Group said the major restructuring which has been taking place will improve productivity.

There was a loss of £801,000 last time, divided at 1.2p. Turnover fell to £30.5m (£42.1m). No signs of recovery, although corporate market resilient.

Revenue is before exceptional and extraordinary charges. Last time's revenue was £88,591. Net assets per share: 33.2p (41.9p).

Last time's loss was £221,000. There was an exceptional credit of £345,000 and an extraordinary charge of £310,000.

Final results. There was a profit of £113,000 last time. There was an exceptional charge of £1.73m. Turnover fell to £8.48m (£10.5m).

The board intends to maintain the final dividend at 1.2p. Turnover fell to £30.5m (£42.1m). Second half expected to be satisfactory.

All figures are in Irish currency. Last time's total dividend was 3.0p. Turnover dipped to £32.5m (£32.8m).

Ecu bond starts to come unstuck

CAPITAL MARKETS

RARELY can the reputation of a "currency" have fallen so far and so fast as the ecu's. The market in ecu bonds took off in 1990, as moves towards European monetary integration grew, becoming the Euro market's most fashionable sector last year. Ecu-denominated bonds were issued by several European governments. The past few months, however, have seen a series of blows to the integration process.

The impact on the ecu bond market has been spectacular. Confidence is measured by the differential between the yield implied by the composite yield on the basket of currencies making up the ecu and the actual yield on bonds trading in the market. If confidence in the ecu is high, ecu bond prices rise and the actual yield falls below the implied yield. Early this year, when integration seemed inevitable, there was a yield discount of 50 basis points on ten-year ecu bonds.

The rot started in June with the Danish referendum. Denmark, an early supporter of the market, launched a 1 billion ecu deal in March. The yield

discount began to disappear and in the ten-year market became a premium by mid July.

After the withdrawal of sterling and the lira from the ERM, the positive differential widened to 50 basis points by the end of last week. The ecu was so unpopular that an investor could gain half a percentage point in yield by buying ecu bonds rather than a basket of bonds duplicating the structure of the ecu. Suggestions on Friday from Allions Versaplace, the president of the Belgian central bank, that the five core ERM currencies could soon proceed with monetary integration on their own cheered the market, but the prospect raises uncertainties, including the fate of existing ecu bonds if a new "mini ecu" is formed.

City dealers talk seriously of the possible creation of the "bark", which would look, smell and behave like a mark but have a composite name as a

concession to the French. Michael O'Hanlon, senior international economist at Kidder Peabody Securities, says that would kill what would then be an obsolete market. Ecu bond trading would virtually cease and bondholders would have to hold their bonds until they mature.

There is an alternative. All ecu bond prospectuses include clauses allowing the issuer to call for repayment in a currency of its choice, if the ecu ceases to exist. Whether the ecu being supplanted would trigger these clauses is a moot point. More sensibly, old ecu bonds could be made convertible into the new "currency", giving the market a new lease of life, and allowing investors to trade their holdings again.

In practice, any movement towards monetary integration among the five is likely to be much slower than comments from the Belgian central bank suggested. Meanwhile, the ecu bond is likely to remain in limbo with little trading, few new issues and an uncertain future. For London's 46 firms making markets in ecu bond, the outlook is bleak.

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No	Company	Price	Wtd	Net	Yld	P/E
1	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
4	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
5	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
8	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
9	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
10	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Capitalisation, week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 21. Dealings end October 2. Settlement day October 12. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	Wtd	Net	Yld	P/E
1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

BUSINESS SERVICES

1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

ELECTRICITY

1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

FINANCE LAND

1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

FOODS

1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

DRAPERY, STORES

1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

BREWERIES

1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

BUILDING, ROADS

1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

ELECTRICALS

1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

INDUSTRIALS

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5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

HOTELS, CATERERS

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5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

TOBACCO

1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

WATER

1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
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Portfolio Plus

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No	Company	Price	Wtd	Net	Yld	P/E
1	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
4	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
5	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
8	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
9	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
10	Wish Water	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

BUSINESS SERVICES

1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
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ELECTRICITY

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5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

FINANCE LAND

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2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

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FOODS

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BUILDING, ROADS

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TOBACCO

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In a special report, Derek Harris looks at how a booming British industry is set to conquer Europe

UK to export bright ideas

Britain's franchising industry is increasingly looking to mainland Europe for expansion as the single market approaches. At present 15 per cent of UK franchises have a presence in mainland Europe, ranging from The Body Shop to Prontaprint. The latest survey shows that 54 per cent of UK franchises intend to be in the European markets by 1996.

The survey, published by the British Franchise Association (BFA) and National Westminster Bank, shows that franchising held up well during recession last year. Sales in the 12 months to June 1990 were at a record £5.2 billion and then in the comparable period to June last year slipped to £4.8 billion.

The failure rate was up, as might have been expected — from 5.7 per cent to 7.2 per cent. This, however, was less than half the failure rate of small businesses overall, emphasising the robustness in difficult times of well tried franchising formulas.

Although sales in franchising have been hit, the number of franchise systems belonging to the BFA rose from 379 in 1990 to 432 last year. There are an estimated 189,500 jobs in franchising, 3 per cent more than in the previous year, representing an increase of nearly 6,000 jobs.

At the same time the number of franchised outlets rose marginally from 18,260 to 18,600, and in the survey franchisors still said they



Keeping his bottle: franchising is proving extremely resilient despite recession, says Michael McGhee

expected to double outlets by 1996. A franchisor owns a franchise format, whose franchisees own and run outlets under the umbrella of the franchisor's system. The survey notes: "While many areas of economic activity have suffered in the recession, franchising continues to attract new entrants and most companies involved in franchising are managing to ride out the present difficulties. This bodes well for expansion of franchising when the economic upturn takes hold."

In the year after the survey sales have probably remained at about the same level in franchising, says Michael McGhee, the BFA chairman. He

'It is encouraging that we are doing as well as we are'

is a vice-president of Servicemaster, an American company specialising in domestic and commercial cleaning, and he heads the European

operations, including the UK. Servicemaster is long-established in the UK, where it has more than 300 franchisees. In 1988 the company began a push into continental Europe by setting up in Germany and is now in Finland, Belgium, Austria, Italy, Spain, and Czechoslovakia. Some sectors especially businesses connected with construction and property, have been affected by flagging sales, Mr McGhee says. Fast-food franchises have also been hit. Declines in some

sectors have been more than 10 per cent. Mr McGhee says: "This is the worst recession for 60 years and franchising is a young industry, so none of us really knew how we would fare because the modern franchise has never traded in these conditions before. It is encouraging that we are doing as well as we are. Franchising is proving extremely resilient. It can only add to the credibility the franchising concept has built up."

Although he believes the industry is holding its own, he shares the anxiety throughout business over how long it may be before the recession eases. However, there have been no significant collapses of key franchise chains, he points out.

The survey lists seven commercial failures in 12 months and another 14 as being no longer active in franchising. The reasons could include takeovers and the buying-out of franchisees so that all units become company-operated.

The effects of tougher trading conditions can be seen more readily in the changes in individual units. Franchisors reported 700 units closed in 12 months, more than double the number of the year before.

Once the UK has shaken off recession, franchising should resume its usual sales rise of about a fifth every year. At the moment franchise systems on average have 43 units but by 1996 an average of more than 100 is being forecast by franchisors.



David Joyce: a paper millionaire at the age of 32

Mr Joyce ensures his fortune

Less than six years ago, David Joyce was becoming disillusioned, having worked for insurance brokers for eight years. He turned to franchising and reckons he is now, at 32, a paper millionaire twice over.

He is based at Willenhall in the West Midlands, and he heard that Swinton Insurance, expanding by taking on franchisees, was coming to the area. He

went to see them, and was offered a franchise in Bilston. The National Westminster Bank helped him to devise a financing arrangement, his father having staked him with redundancy money, together with a house loan.

Mr Joyce says: "I began with virtually nothing, but I have made a profit every year since. It was small at first because the difficulty in insurance is getting the start-up."

Now he has 19 Swinton Insurance offices, from Halesowen in the south, on the Birmingham outskirts,

to Rugeley, Staffordshire, in the north. Swinton has just over 280 franchised offices; another 450 are owned and run by the company. The Joyce franchisees form the second biggest grouping within Swinton.

Mr Joyce's turnover — £7 million last year — is expected to rise to £9.5 million this year. He says: "We estimate that the business is now worth about £2.5 million. We have two more outlets in the pipeline, but we are nearing saturation point in our operational area. If the opportunity occurs, I could buy

some existing Swinton franchises, perhaps in an adjoining area. "I am writing 90 per cent of policies for motor insurance, as well as other personal insurance. The good thing about insurance is that it is a predictable business. But in boom times you do not get an insurance boom, just as in bad times you do not suffer as much as many do in other sectors."

Turnover is expected to rise to £9.5 million



Only the first step on the quality road: Moshe Gerstenhaber

sequence will have this standard."

In the same sector, Prontaprint aimed, as the recession worsened, at total quality management. Its main com-

pany-owned centre is BS5750-accredited.

A customer-care initiative is to be developed and more intensive training at franchise level has started.

A quality type of printer

More and more franchise operators are moving towards adoption of the British standard, no. 5750 — the quality criterion — just as the British Franchise Association has tightened its rules.

The association has also been helping to devise a European code of ethics for the trade. Franchising is one of the earliest commercial sectors to establish a self-regulatory code in the European Community, defining the obligations of the franchisor owning the franchise format and the franchisees taking on and running outlets. All are signs of a maturing industry which has seen its share of greedy franchise operators, including some selling people rights to relatively untested business systems that proved flawed.

Kall-Kwik — printing shops and business services — has

Franchisees are helping to form policies for high standards

been early on the quality trail. Kall-Kwik, whose chairman is Moshe Gerstenhaber, began using a BS5750 programme more than a year ago.

Kall-Kwik is hoping for full headquarters accreditation by the end of the year. Nine more franchisees have been accredited and another eight prepared for accreditation application. Within two years, all 200 franchisees around the country are likely to be individually accredited.

Mr Gerstenhaber says: "This is only the first step down the quality road. Eventually, every business of con-



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Founder who floundered: Frieda Cruickshank

System comes to the rescue

Nine months ago, financial crisis hit Frieda Cruickshank. She was one of three founding directors for an ice-cream franchise, under the brand of I Can't Believe It's Yogurt, after its Texas-based parent.

For two years, she had worked hard to get the franchise off the ground. The three directors, trading as Glen Lyon Foods, had invested about £700,000.

Mrs Cruickshank recalled: "The recession hit sales and the cash ran out. Yet the franchise itself was first-class." The company went into voluntary liquidation, but the franchising system came to its aid: the franchise owner, in Dallas, offered support to allow the franchisees to continue.

Mrs Cruickshank said: "The real rescue came by chance because of an American lawyer, Hugh Scott, who is master franchisee for the Caribbean and the Middle East." Mr Scott had flown to London to discuss the possibility of

joint venture outlets. When he heard of Glen Lyon's problems, he became the new backer, under the company name of Lion's Paw. The British franchise for I Can't Believe It's Yogurt was back on the road, with Mrs Cruickshank as chief executive.

"The new backing was just what I needed," she says.

A new development programme is now leading to a wider product range, with lower prices, extending the basic appeal of frozen yogurt as a healthier low fat and lower calorie alternative to ice-cream.

Two more franchise units are expected to open soon, and Mrs Cruickshank hopes to have between 15 and 20 franchisees operating by the end of next year.

The pattern is for a franchisee to have a main store, with satellite kiosks servicing town centres, neighbourhoods and tourist attractions such as theme parks and resorts, both coastal and inland.

Road to Europe and the future

Derek Mottershead, the managing director of Prontaprint, the printing and business services franchise, is commercially a convinced European. "For a soundly based UK franchise, this is the way to go in the future," he says. "But it is not an easy fix. We have had our share of disasters."

Prontaprint, based in Darlington, Co Durham, is the 1992 franchisor of the year, selected by the British Franchise Association (BFA) for its programme to fight recession. Prontaprint, 21 years old and with nearly 300 outlets in Britain, has shone in franchisee support, communications, marketing and assistance for franchisees in difficulty.

In the past decade, Prontaprint has established itself abroad. It now has about 100 outlets overseas, mostly in Europe but also in South Africa, where there are about 40 outlets, and in the Far East, using Hong Kong as a base. There are a dozen more shops in the Irish Republic.

Mothercare and Marks & Spencer are two other high street names that have expanded abroad through franchising. The Body Shop has been hit by a sales slide in Britain, but its network abroad, including franchisees, has held up despite world recession.

Equally, there has been an inflow of franchise businesses from mainland Europe, especially from countries where franchising is highly developed, such as France.

Promupia de Paris, the bridal wear chain, is established in the UK, and other successful French retail chains are moving in: Jacadi in children's wear, Rodier in men's and women's

Britain's high street businesses see the Continent as their market for continuing growth

fashion, and Essentiel in women's fashion. At Jacadi, which has 400 branches worldwide, Martin Sloots, the managing director for the British operation, says: "Our three UK outlets a year ago have grown to 11. We are looking for 50 outlets but retailing costs here are higher than anywhere else in Europe."

There are various ways for successful British franchises to expand beyond the domestic market, says Mr Mottershead, who is also a vice-

One option is a joint venture with a business in the target country

chairman of the BFA. One option, which large American operations often take, is to go straight into a foreign market and set up a parallel operation. Another option, which can build in valuable local knowledge of markets and the business climate, is to mount a joint venture with a business in the target country.

A further method of tapping local knowledge — especially valuable if there are language or cultural difficulties — is to appoint a master franchisee in the country concerned.

Once that person and the franchisor believe they have the product right for the target country, the master franchisee can appoint franchisees for individual outlets. This is the method adopted by most British franchises establishing themselves abroad.

Prontaprint has chosen this method for most outlets. The master franchisee deal in Italy, however, has elements of a joint venture, in which Prontaprint holds an equity stake. In Hong Kong, the company has linked up with an established trading company that is expanding in Singapore, the Philippines and Malaysia.

Mr Mottershead says: "Germany is a prime territory for development. The country has expanded so much that it has to be tackled as one might tackle the vast market of the United States: by dividing it up, perhaps among several master franchisees."

The former East Germany, with its need for technology, may be especially fruitful territory for a transplant of British franchises with a technological bias, Mr Mottershead says.

"Franchisees should not expect too much too quickly in moving abroad," he says. "A master franchisee will pay for the chance at the business in the usual way, but after that you get just a small part of his percentage."

"It only really starts to sound interesting financially when there is real scale — if the chain builds up to 100 or 200 outlets. This means you are looking at five to ten years before returns are substantial."

The need for careful assessment of overseas markets is emphasised by Michael McGhee, the UK-based vice-president in charge of European operations for Servicemaster, the



Man of Europe: "This is the way ahead," says Derek Mottershead

domestic and commercial cleaning company. Servicemaster has penetrated several continental European countries, especially Germany, where it took time to gain an entry to markets protected by trade unions.

Mr McGhee says: "One thing we had to learn was that because most Germans rent their homes, they are not interested in carpet cleaning,

because that is up to the landlord. What they do need, however, is a cleaning service for upholstery, especially leather."

Because France is the most developed of the European countries in franchising terms, it should be relatively easy for franchisors to win the banks over to their side when launching there.

Companies on the lookout

More than 100 new and established franchise companies will be looking for new franchisees at the three-day National Franchising Exhibition, which opens at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre on Friday.

About 13,000 visitors are expected to attend the exhibition, which is sponsored by the British Franchise Association (BFA).

Lambourn Court International offers a chance to work from home as a stress management consultant. There is an

The national show includes a stress adviser and a laser game business

initial £12,500 investment, and training is given leading to an accredited qualification.

Quasar claims that its laser game with a mock battle format is exploiting a cult leisure activity that has 350,000 weekly players. Typically the battles are for opposing teams of 20 people and last up to an hour. The game demands space, usually in a stadium, but about 75 grounds have

already been established in Britain. With laser and computer equipment to install as well as battleground components, the investment is relatively high at between £130,000 and £300,000.

Quasar is poised to move into the United States, and has already opened several grounds in Spain and one in Israel.

Authentic French bakery products, with the right crunch, taste and smell, are the hallmark of a new franchise, Delifrance Boulangerie et Café Français. It is an offshoot of Whitworths Restaurants, part of Whitworths Holdings, which already operates the Don Miller chain of hot bread kitchens partly on a franchised basis.

The exhibition acts as an educational forum, offering free advice from banks, lawyers and specialist consultants on all aspects of going into business, and the BFA is organising free lectures.

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Problems mount for Souness

Grobbelaar finds fault as Liverpool slip again

Liverpool 2
Wimbledon 3

By Ian Ross

AFTER the gloom that has shrouded Liverpool since the start of the season had failed to show any signs of lifting at Anfield on Saturday, Bruce Grobbelaar was swift to pass judgment on the rapidly-deteriorating situation at the club.

Grobbelaar, 34, said after making his first appearance of the Premier League campaign: "We had better get things sorted out soon or we are going to be dead and buried. I think the boss [Graeme Souness] is right when he says that the more experienced players are not helping out the youngsters."

The younger players have been playing like men and the men have been playing like youngsters. It is up to us, the older ones, to show the way forward. The kids have determination and fire and we, the experienced professionals, must show that we too have those qualities.

Unfortunately, Grobbelaar set anything but the perfect example. He contributed to Liverpool's fifth defeat in ten league games by mis-punching the ball on the edge of the penalty area. It was returned with unerring accuracy by the outstanding Earle.

Wimbledon, who had opened the scoring in the twelfth minute when Fashanu's belligerent surge from

deep had met with only limited resistance, could scarcely believe their good fortune.

Grobbelaar's words reflect the mounting sense of unease and frustration within the club. Souness has made great play of the fact that he is lacking the services of several influential players, and certainly any club in Britain would struggle after losing the likes of Barnes, Rush and Whelan. However, Liverpool's first-team pool on Saturday still included six full internationals.

Even after hauling themselves back into contention with a penalty by Molloy and a smartly taken goal by McManaman shortly before the interval, one point always seemed likely to be the limit of Liverpool's ambition.

Earle's second, decisive goal 14 minutes from the end, again the by-product of poor defending, was possibly more than Wimbledon deserved but it was a case of fortune favouring the brave rather than the beleaguered. It also, apparently, favours Souness, who, according to David Moores, the Liverpool chairman, has the board behind him. "I am perfectly hopeful that we will get through this and come back as the force we have always been," Moores said.

LIVERPOOL: G. Grobbelaar, M. Marsh, D. Barnes, T. Plebani, J. Rodgers, M. Wright, P. Rosenfield, S. McManaman, D. Hutchison, J. Molloy, M. Walters (sub: I. Korpel), W. Gendall, H. Scales, S. Barton, J. Sweeney, V. Jones, J. Scales, S. Fitzgerald, N. Ardley (sub: P. Miller), R. Earle, J. Fashanu, D. Holdsworth (sub: J. Sanchez), A. Clarke, R. Williams, R. Whelan.

Fifa vice-president dies

Frankfurt: Hermann Neuberger, a vice-president of Fifa, football's world governing body, died yesterday, aged 72.

Neuberger supervised the organisation of World Cup tournaments and was head of the German football federation.

A statement by the federation said Neuberger, who had been too ill to attend the European championship in June, died of an "incurable disease". He died at a clinic in

Homburg. In his home state of Saarland, in southwest Germany.

Neuberger became vice-president of Fifa in 1974, after earning praise for the clockwork organisation of the 1974 World Cup in Germany. In 1975, he became head of the German football federation.

The man likely to succeed Neuberger at the head of German football is believed to be Egidius Braun, treasurer of the federation. (AP)



Uplifting: Gallacher, of Coventry, takes the aerial route, while Polston, left, and Bowen, of Norwich, are more down to earth at Highfield Road

Ndlovu administers his touch of class

Coventry City 1
Norwich City 1

By Clive White

SO RYAN Giggs is not the only remaining great talent in British football, after all. Peter Ndlovu may not be a name that trips off the tongue quite so easily but, with a goal of rare beauty, the young man whom Zimbabwe sent to Coventry confirmed that it will be on the lips of thousands before the Premier League season is much older.

The manner in which he took his goal amid a stunning overall performance deserved comparison with the best, even if comparison with George Best, as ventured afterwards by Bobby Gould, his manager, is a bit premature. It was an exceptional goal. "I didn't even think he would get into a scoring position. But the lad has got terrific speed and skill to match and full credit to him.

perfect balance," he said. "Peter's got that balance — and he's faster than Trevor."

Of that there could be no dispute. But those who went to Highfield Road on Saturday with the idea that Ndlovu was just about pace, albeit blistering, were in for a pleasant surprise. The goal embraced all his endowments. Speeding, from nowhere, on to a ball from Sansom which Gallacher had cleverly dumfied. Ndlovu rode one tackle and then went past another seemingly motionless Norwich defender before bearing down on Gunn.

With one withering shimmy the goalkeeper was beaten before the ball had passed him. The victim, in this case Gunn, recovered sufficiently to say: "It was an exceptional goal. I didn't even think he would get into a scoring position. But the lad has got terrific speed and skill to match and full credit to him.

We won't concede as good a goal as that all season."

With the return fixture still to come, do not bet on that, not if Gould is to be believed. "He gets goals like that every day for us in training and leaves us all knock-kneed," Gould said. The Norwich defence will know the feeling. Somebody's defence, though, is going to get a lucky break next month when Ndlovu returns to Zimbabwe to play in a World Cup qualifying tie against Togo and misses a match.

Not that that will leave Coventry bereft of pace. With forwards like Williams, who won the national sprint final for footballers last season, and the nifty skills of Gallacher, most defences would still be given the chasing that Norwich's was subjected to in the second half. Whether it would have survived had Sutton been sent off, as he should have been, for a "professional" foul

on Gallacher in the 51st minute, we will never know, but the league leaders did just about enough to deserve their point.

Without Megson to put some working-class steel into their naturally well-bred game, it was always going to be difficult for Norwich to win enough possession to trouble Coventry. The penalty box crumb on which a bird of prey like Robins thrives never materialised. That may sound like a criticism of the service supplied by Crook, who, quite the contrary, had another excellent match quite apart from the goal he steered home from Sutton's pass in the thirteenth minute. It is hard to think of a better passer in the English game, a fact which Graham Taylor, the England manager, may recognise when he announces his squad on Thursday for the World Cup qualifying tie against Norway.

No, the credit for Norwich's dearth of opportunity goes to Coventry's defenders, who obviously learned their art well, even in last season's troubled times, under Don Howe's tuition. Speaking of England, Taylor could do worse than consider the merits of Borrows, the Coventry right back.

There is enough to enthuse about Coventry to make you forget — almost — the tedious upfield kicks of Ogrizovic, their goalkeeper-cum-playmaker. Like them or not, Coventry and the equally unfashionable Norwich, with their more attractive short-passing game, are likely to be lording it over the rest of the league for a while longer yet.

COVENTRY CITY: S. Ogrizovic, B. Borrows, K. Sansom (sub: P. Bate), P. Alderson, A. Pearce, P. Ndlovu, L. McGrath, L. Hunt, R. Rossini, K. Gallacher, J. Williams.

NORWICH CITY: B. Gunn, I. Chisholm, M. Bowen, J. Poston, C. Sutton, D. Such, C. Crook, P. Newman, M. Roberts, J. Goss, D. Phillips.

Referee: A. Bullock.

Rangers too coy to make a killing

Manchester United 0
Queens Park Rangers 0

By Peter Ball

AFTER winning 4-1 on their last visit to Old Trafford, Queens Park Rangers approached this match on Saturday with the trepidation of somebody about to step into the lion's den. They need not have worried — although the lion initially made a few threatening growls, it soon rolled over and went back to sleep, allowing them to creep away with a share of the spoils.

Afterwards Alex Ferguson, the United manager, accused Rangers of coming with just that intention. "They came to contain and hit us on the break," he complained. "They knew we'd been playing well and they came for a point."

Ferguson might be more concerned about his side's own lack of firepower as they rarely put Rangers under any sustained pressure. Given that he had reverted to his full side after giving the European team a run-out at Brighton, it was not encouraging, although Giggs for one saw so little of the ball he might have wondered if he was being given another rest.

It does not bode well for their match tomorrow, but fortunately Ferguson was able to pick up reinforcements on the way to Moscow. Robson, Parker and Phelan all came through an A-team game on Saturday morning convincingly enough to join a 21-man squad which flew out yesterday. On Saturday's evidence, Robson still seems essential for United in spite of Ince's energetic performance.

Hughes was dominated by Peacock, who looks, and sometimes plays, as if he had wandered off a Gung'n't Rose or Black Sabbath set, and when Hughes did get free his finishing was unconvincing. Equally worrying for United was their lack of midfield authority.

Rangers have that. Wilkins was subdued but his influence is pervasive. Generally the London side was content to take the pace out of the game, but it had the better chances. Sinton brushed the outside of the post. Penrice brought the save of the match out of Schmeichel.

MANCHESTER UNITED: P. Schmeichel, D. James, C. Besterman, S. Bruce, D. Ferguson, G. Phillips, A. Ramsdale (sub: D. Williams), P. Foster, B. McCree, M. Hughes, R. Goss.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS: J. Shephard, D. Barclay, J. Brown, R. Williams, D. Farnham, D. McDermid, A. Ince, J. Holloway, P. Forsyth (sub: S. Barker), G. Penrice, A. Sinton, Referee: D. Wilson.

THE TIMES TABLE OF THE FA PREMIER LEAGUE

Wkly chg	P	Pts	Goal diff	Home attendance										Recent form	Next match
				W (H-A)	D (H-A)	L (H-A)	For (H-A)	Agst (H-A)	Leading scorers	Offences S-O Bkg	Avg 92-3	% chg 91-2			
1 (D) Norwich	10	23	+7	7 (4-3)	2 (1-1)	1 (0-1)	19 (9-11)	12 (3-9)	Robins 6, Phillips 5	- 4	13,847	-0.1	unwvwd	Blackburn (a Sat)	
2 (D) Blackburn	10	21	+9	6 (4-2)	3 (0-3)	1 (1-0)	17 (10-7)	8 (4-4)	Shearer 10	2 11	18,005	+35.9	unwldw	Norwich (h Sat)	
3 (D) Coventry	8	20	+4	6 (2-4)	2 (1-1)	2 (0-0)	12 (4-8)	8 (5-3)	Williams 4	- 6	14,514	+4.6	unwldw	C Palace (h Sat)	
4 (D) Man Utd	10	18	+4	5 (2-3)	3 (2-1)	2 (1-1)	11 (4-7)	7 (4-3)	Hughes 3	- 6	31,585	-29.8	unwvwd	Middlesbro (a Sat)	
5 (D) QPR	10	17	+4	4 (2-2)	5 (3-2)	1 (0-1)	13 (6-4)	9 (6-3)	Ferdinand 4, Sinton 3	- 15	13,503	-0.7	ldwldd	Tottenham (h Sat)	
6 (+1) A Villa	10	16	+5	4 (2-2)	4 (2-2)	2 (1-1)	17 (10-7)	12 (7-5)	Atkinson, Saunders 5	- 6	24,231	-2.4	wldwew	Wimbledon (a Sat)	
7 (-1) Middlesbro	9	14	+5	4 (3-1)	2 (1-1)	3 (1-2)	18 (12-6)	13 (8-7)	Wilkinson 5	- 8	16,871	+14.7	ldwldd	Man Utd (h Sat)	
8 (+3) Leeds	10	14	+3	3 (3-0)	5 (2-3)	2 (0-2)	17 (12-5)	14 (4-10)	Cantone 6, Chapman 5	- 10	27,806	-5.6	wlddww	Ipswich (a Sat)	
9 (-1) Chelsea	10	13	+1	3 (1-2)	4 (3-1)	3 (1-2)	13 (4-6)	12 (4-8)	Hartford 5	- 9	20,959	+12.2	wvldwld	Arsenal (a Sat)	
10 (-1) Ipswich	10	13	0	2 (1-1)	7 (4-3)	1 (0-1)	12 (6-6)	12 (5-7)	Wark 3	1 12	16,663	+16.7	ddwldd	Leeds (h Sat)	
11 (+5) Sheff Wed	10	12	-1	3 (2-1)	3 (1-2)	4 (2-2)	13 (8-5)	14 (8-6)	Hirst 5	- 7	26,199	-11.4	ldwldw	Liverpool (a Sat)	
12 (-3) Everton	10	12	-2	3 (1-2)	3 (2-1)	4 (2-2)	10 (2-8)	12 (5-7)	Barclay 3	- 2	23,248	+0.4	ldwldl	Oldham (a Sun)	
13 (-2) Man City	9	11	+1	3 (1-2)	2 (2-0)	4 (2-2)	11 (7-4)	10 (7-3)	White 7, Work 2	1 9	24,521	-11.4	wldwldl	Arsenal (a Sat)	
14 (D) Arsenal	9	11	0	3 (2-1)	2 (0-2)	4 (2-2)	11 (6-5)	11 (5-5)	Wright 5	- 17	24,214	-24.1	wvldldl	Man City (h Sat)	
15 (-4) Oldham	10	11	-1	2 (2-0)	5 (2-3)	3 (1-2)	18 (12-6)	19 (9-10)	Sharp 4	- 10	11,789	-21.9	ldwldld	Everton (h Sun)	
16 (+4) Southampton	10	10	-3	2 (1-1)	4 (2-2)	4 (2-2)	9 (4-5)	12 (5-7)	Le Tissier 3, Dowie 2	1 15	15,727	+11.8	wldldw	Sheff Utd (a Sat)	
17 (-2) Tottenham	10	10	-7	2 (2-0)	4 (2-2)	4 (1-3)	8 (7-1)	15 (6-9)	Durie 3, Sheringham 2	1 10	26,351	-5.1	dwldld	QPR (a Sat)	
18 (+3) Wimbledon	10	9	-3	2 (1-1)	3 (1-2)	5 (3-2)	12 (5-7)	15 (7-8)	Holdsworth, Earle 3	1 12	8,490	-6.0	ldwldw	A Villa (h Sat)	
19 (-2) Liverpool	10	9	-5	2 (2-0)	3 (1-2)	5 (2-3)	13 (7-6)	18 (8-10)	Walters, Molloy 3	- 10	32,373	-7.0	ddwldl	Sheff Wed (h Sat)	
20 (-1) Sheff Utd	10	9	-6	2 (2-0)	3 (2-1)	5 (1-4)	9 (6-3)	15 (6-9)	Doane 4	- 19	21,188	-4.1	ldwldd	Soton (h Sat)	
21 (-3) C Palace	10	8	-4	1 (0-1)	5 (3-2)	4 (2-2)	13 (8-5)	17 (10-7)	Armstrong 4	1 7	13,635	-22.6	ldwldd	Coventry (a Sat)	
22 (D) Nottm For	9	5	-11	1 (1-0)	2 (1-1)	6 (2-4)	8 (3-5)	19 (5-14)	Barnister 4, Clough 2	- 5	19,176	-19.2	ldwldd	Man City (a Sat)	

TRANSFERS: David Hopkin (Chelsea) from Morton, £300,000; Nicky Marker (Blackburn) from Plymouth, undisclosed; Craig Skinner and Keith Hill (Plymouth) from Blackburn, undisclosed. LOANS: Damien Matthew (Chelsea) to Luton; Nick Mohan (Middlesbrough) to Hull.

□ All statistics refer to Premier League matches only

Coppell fumes at Dowie's double

By Nicholas Harling

FOR a side that came brazenly with no more ambition than a point, Southampton scarcely deserved their 2-1 win at Crystal Palace. Few argued with Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, who said the defeat was a "travesty of justice".

The Southampton defence spent most of the first half wondering whether to come out and play Palace offside or stay put. With John Salako missing a penalty and three subsequent chances, Southampton somehow survived until Dowie profited from a mistake by Humphrey to shoot them ahead.

Young's inelegant equaliser looked to be the prelude to a third successive win for Palace but, after Southgate had missed a clearance, which Marjot dropped under pressure from Groves, Dowie fired the winner.

Three Southampton players were booked as Palace slumped back to one from bottom of the table.

Craig Forrest, the Ipswich Town goalkeeper, who was booked by Ron Groves last season, went one worse when he received the red card from the same referee for upending Lindejohn after only two minutes.

Youds went off and Clive Baker went into goal to preserve a point for Ipswich in a 0-0 draw, which did nothing to please Dave Bassett. The Sheffield United manager thought his side's inability to score against ten men was abysmal.

Doubtless Bassett could have done with a marksman like Alan Shearer, whose goal for Blackburn Rovers in the 2-0 home win over Oldham Athletic was his tenth in as many league games.

Since Marshall and Johnson were both lucky to stay on the pitch for clattering into Shearer, Marshall probably deserved nothing more than to miss a penalty, which he drove straight at Mimms.

Another prolific scorer is Dean Saunders, who must make Graeme Souness continue to question his wisdom of playing the transfer market when he could have been attempting to accommodate the Welshman at Liverpool.

Aston Villa have benefited by two goals from Saunders in each of his first two games. He made the difference on Saturday at Middlesbrough, who were probably worth more than a 3-2 defeat — their first at home this season.

Leeds line up their alternative schemes

Leeds United 2
Everton 0

By Russell Kempson

LAST Tuesday, Scunthorpe United were seen off 4-1 in the Coca-Cola Cup, on Saturday, Everton were extinguished in the Premier League; this Wednesday, VfB Stuttgart pay a visit in the European Cup.

Three contrasting matches at Elland Road, in the space of nine days, and yet all of vital importance to Leeds United. Missions one and two have been completed while the

third, high on impossible after a 3-0 first-leg defeat in Germany, fast approaches.

Match No. 3 is the big one, with England still expecting a stirring lightstick from Leeds and a rare sliver of international success. In case of failure, matches No. 1 and No. 2 assume far greater significance.

The result of No. 2 keeps Leeds in touch with the early-season upstarts of Norwich City and Blackburn Rovers as they attempt to retain their league title. In case of further failure, No. 1 provides a consolation route to alternative

pleasures and maybe even a swift return to Europe via a cup final win at Wembley.

Leeds appear well equipped to pursue all their objectives and victory over Everton owed much to patience, of which they will need an abundance against Stuttgart and McAllister's graft.

A frantic opening half-hour did little to dispel the headless chicken theory that is rife among critics of the English game today. Power and pace rule, okay? Leeds pummelled away until Everton's resistance crumbled on the hour. Cantona's fair François re-

leased McAllister into the area, Abert intervened unfairly and McAllister sidefooted home the penalty. Three minutes later, Chapman dived to head in from five yards.

With Scunthorpe and Everton disposed of from a level start, the Leeds revival is gathering momentum. Facing Stuttgart, at 3-0 down, will provide the real proof.

LEEDS UNITED: J. Lurie, S. Sellers (sub: C. Smith), A. Donaghy, D. Bailey, C. Farnsworth, C. White, A. Carrington, G. Sanchis, L. Chapman, G. McAllister, G. Speed.

EVERTON: N. Southall, A. Heger, A. Hendrie, J. Elliott, D. Wilson, G. Abert, R. Worsley, sub: M. Johnson, B. Horne, D. Lindejohn (sub: P. Baigrie), A. Crooks, P. Radford.

Referee: R. Fiedler.

Departed pair leave Forest without fire

Chelsea 0
Nottingham Forest 0

By Peter Robinson

NOTTINGHAM Forest are a rather sad sight this season. For so long, we have been accustomed to watching them weave their pleasing patterns as they challenge for honours, that now, in a season so short of quality, it is somehow unjust to see them propping up the Premier League.

The draw they chiselled out of Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Saturday leaves them still

three points adrift at the foot of the table. The statistics make stark reading if you hail from the East Midlands, but they do not lie. Brian Clough's honest guardians of all that is good in the game are really struggling.

Against Chelsea, one could only ponder how the now-departed Walker and Sheringham might have transformed them. Would Keane, such a surging midfield presence, really have been used as a makeshift defender? Would Crosby, a wisp of a winger, have spent his afternoon searching in vain for a centre

forward to cross to? No. Sold to Sampdoria and Tottenham respectively, both players have yet to be replaced, and without them Forest appear lightweight and, with the towering exception of Tiler in defence, short of inches, if not ideas.

They were, however, lucky that Chelsea were unable to take advantage. Yet another team drained of personnel by injuries, the Londoners won the physical battle easily enough but lacked the guile to capitalise on it. The result was a match that screamed "goalless draw" almost as soon as it kicked off.

Sections of the crowd contented themselves with barracking a lone television cameraman and his doleful attempts to focus on David Mellor in the main stand. "Turn round and watch the game," they shouted repeatedly and reprovingly whenever he zoomed in on Chelsea's most famous supporter — only, in truth, there was precious little else going on.

CHELSEA: K. Healy, G. Hall, sub: C. Smith, F. Sinclair, A. Townsend, D. Lyle, M. Donaghy, E. Newton, R. Fleck (last: J. Spence), M. Bedford, N. Stewart, D. Widdowson.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M. Crockett, B. Leno, S. Peeters, R. McDermid, C. Tier, R. Keane, G. Crosby, S. Gerrard, N. Clough, P. Baigrie, J. O'Grady, Referee: J. Ward.

Pickard forced back to the drawing board

Britain make swift return to ranks of world also-rans

BY ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a brief and uneasy year marching strides with the front-runners, Britain have returned to a more accustomed position among the also-rans of world tennis. A 4-1 defeat by India in the world group qualifying de in Delhi has condemned Tony Pickard and his men to the delights of the Euro-African zone group for the 1993 Davis Cup.

If there was a certain inevitability to Britain's rapid return to the pack, there was no excuse for being tailed off against India who, with no player ranked in the top 200, are not exactly tennis thoroughbreds themselves. In reality, the result is probably about right, given the strange conditions and the stomach injury to Jeremy Bates, which forced him out of the doubles on Saturday. But after the appointment of Pickard as Davis Cup captain, and a chorus of optimism emanating from the Lawn Tennis Association headquarters at Queen's Club in recent months, British tennis followers had come to expect rather more.

The victory over Austria 12 months ago that took Britain back into the world group of 16 nations promised, if not a bright new dawn, then something better than the grey days of the past. Even the subsequent whitewash by France, the cup holders, in Bayonne

earlier this year suggested that Pickard had instilled a sense of purpose in the team.

By the end of the first two days of scorching heat at the Delhi Tennis Association complex, with India in an unassailable 3-0 lead, those beliefs had become a little frayed. With Bates, for one reason or another, in one of his frailer moods, Britain simply lacked the experience or the depth of talent to threaten India, who had the tie under control once Paes, their No. 2, had upset the British No. 1 in the opening rubber.

Admittedly, the luck that had run Britain's way for the past 18 months turned against them with a vengeance. Not only was Bates suffering from a variety of injuries and a severe lack of match practice after his wedding, honeymoon and six weeks away from the game, the early halt on the first evening stopped Petchey from taking advantage of the 31-year-old Krishnan's tiring legs.

Another half an hour of daylight and the British No. 2 might have levelled the tie and swung the psychological balance back to the centre.

As it was, the gifted Krishnan took just 34 minutes to give India a 2-0 lead on the second morning and when Petchey, in the absence of Bates, had to forge a make-

shift pairing with Neil Broad in the afternoon doubles, Pickard's last card had gone.

For over an hour, the British pair held on, levelling the match with two successive breaks in the second set, before Paes and Krishnan completed India's first victory over Britain in three ties with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 win.

Defeat leaves Britain back at square one and with little still to show for the £55 million of investment in the infrastructure of the game over the past decade.

For all the broadening of the base, for all the new indoor courts, the coaching schemes, the new tournaments and the hard work, the top of the pyramid is as blunt as ever.

The next generation, headed by Andrew Richardson, has a long way to go; Bates, at the age of 30, cannot have too much more left in him. In between, Pickard's resources could be stretched even tighter than they are now.

"I knew what I was taking on and it's not the end of the world to lose a Davis Cup match," Pickard concluded. Just the end of the world group for a year or two, at least.

RESULTS (India names first): Singles: 1. Paes to J. Bates, 6-2, 6-7, 7-5, 6-1; 2. Krishnan to M. Petchey, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-7, 6-1; 3. G. Nagesh to C. Wilkinson, 6-3, 6-1; 4. Paes to Petchey, 6-2, 6-4. Doubles: Krishnan and Paes to Petchey and N. Broad, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Match result: India 4, Great Britain 1.



Early test: The amateur crew of Coopers & Lybrand struggle with their equipment at the start of the British Steel round-the-world race

MacGillivray steers clear of incidents

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

AFTER a spectacular start from the Solent on Saturday, the ten-strong fleet of British Steel round-the-world race yachts were closing on Ushant last night almost line-

up. Ian MacGillivray and his crew of Teesside, who won a £4,000 bonus for leading the fleet out of the Solent, continued to hold a seven-mile lead over John O'Driscoll's Rhone-Poulenc, with British Steel II, skippered by Richard Tudor, chasing a mile astern.

Positions, however, changed continuously yesterday as the patchy breeze dealt hope and horror in random order to the packed fleet of identical 67-foot yachts.

The start, delayed for five minutes to accommodate the needs of the BBC's live radio broadcast, caught out two crews. Commercial Union Assurance, skippered by Will Sutherland, made a perfect run for the line, only to find that their timing was five

minutes out. By the time her crew had realised their mistake, they had doused the headsail and half-hoisted a spinnaker and were left drifting helplessly away on the fierce-running ebb tide.

The highly charged atmosphere, made worse by at least 2,000 spectators Group 4 Securitas crew as well. They shot the line ten seconds early, then found it impossible to re-round the outer distance mark because Heath Insured (Adrian Donovan) had it snagged around her rudder. With a mass of spectator boats bearing down on them, Golding wisely chose to keep clear and turned to follow the fleet without answering Group 4's recall.

The Commercial Union crew did their best to stem the strong current and flow of exuberant spectator craft but failed to recross the line completely and can expect a two-hour penalty when they reach Rio de Janeiro, the first stop in a month's time. The crew on British Steel II

made the best start, but the decision by MacGillivray to set a light-weather spinnaker, instead of the heavy branded versions chosen by his rivals, helped Pride of Teesside to take the lead and a £2,000 purse at the first gate of Lee-on-Solent, by little more than a pulp from Nuclear Electric. Teesside picked up the second £2,000 bounty off Cowes.

A sudden gust of wind funneling through Hurst

Narrows at the western end of the Solent caught out several crews. Vivian Cherry's crew on Coopers & Lybrand were first to recover their composition and spinnaker, and were rewarded with the lead as the fleet headed out past The Needles.

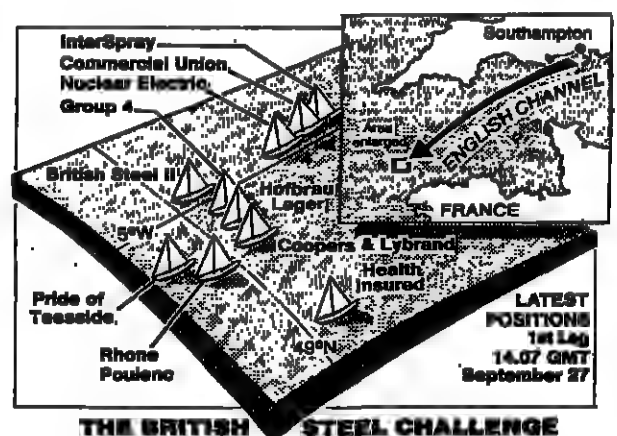
The canny MacGillivray, however, headed Pride of Teesside through the narrow channel close to Hurst Castle to keep their spinnaker flying. This inshore position gave the

crew a greater advantage when the tide turned against them. Later, which helped Teesside to pull out an 18-mile lead over last-placed yachts, Commercial Union and Interspray.

The immediate prospect for these 130 amateur crew members and their professional skippers is a continuation of the light fickle winds as they cross the Bay of Biscay and run down to the Azores, before hooking up with the northeast trades that will carry them as far as the Cape Verde islands. Then it will be a case of picking their way through the doldrums, before enjoying the southeast trades as they sail across the Atlantic towards the South American coast.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 1400 GMT yesterday, with miles to Rio de Janeiro): 1. Pride of Teesside (I. MacGillivray), 4,821 miles; 2. Rhone-Poulenc (J. O'Driscoll), 4,828; 3. British Steel II (R. Tudor), 4,838; 4. Coopers & Lybrand (V. Cherry) and Nuclear Electric (P. Golding), 4,837; 5. Group 4 Securitas (M. Golding), 4,834; 6. Heath Insured (A. Donovan), 4,833; 7. Nuclear Electric (P. Golding), 4,832; 8. Commercial Union (W. Sutherland) and Interspray (P. Jelliffe), 4,831.

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SQUASH RACKETS

Jansher reclaims world title

Johannesburg: Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, reclaimed the world open championship here on Saturday, defeating Chris Dittmar, of Australia, 15-11, 15-9, 10-15, 15-6 in 79 minutes and, in the process, earned the acclaim of the squash-starved South Africans (Colin McCullinan writes).

Supporters turned out in their thousands to watch some of the best squash played in their country, on a new glass court with walls tinted in their green and gold national colours. They cheered Jansher's

victory to the echo. Jansher, now world and British Open champion, and world No. 1 in the same year, can claim the mantle of superiority surrendered by Jahangir after more than a decade when he stopped playing, against Peter Marshall on Wednesday.

There is almost an arrogance about Jansher, 23, that is less than pleasing to some. He does not fit easily into the gentlemanly role fashioned by Jahangir, although he was quick to display the manda-

tory homage to Mecca, kneeling on court as soon as victory was completed. He might have thanked, rather, the deadly rivalry among the top Australians, who savaged each other in the bottom half of the draw.

Rodney Martin's defence of the title ended when he fell 15-5, 12-15, 17-16, 15-8 in an 84-minute semi-final to Dittmar.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: Jansher Khan (Pak) to A. Dittmar (Aus), 15-11, 15-9, 10-15, 15-6; C. Dittmar (Aus) to R. Martin (Aus), 15-8, 15-17, 15-16, 15-8.

Final: Jansher to Dittmar, 15-11, 15-9, 10-15, 15-6.

BOXING

WBO orders return bout for McMillan

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Colin McMillan woke up yesterday in Charing Cross hospital, he could not believe he was not the World Boxing Organisation champion. As he was winning the bout against Rubin Palacio, of Colombia, at Olympia and had to retire with a dislocated shoulder in the eighth round, he should still have been champion.

The contest's rules stated that if a boxer was injured as a result of an accident or a foul, the winner would be the one in front at the time. Two judges had McMillan ahead by three rounds and one by one round. Yet the referee, Jess Anderson, and Mark Schechner, the WBO supervisor, awarded the title to Palacio.

Anderson, of Denmark, stopped the bout when McMillan's trainer threw in a towel to draw his attention to the injury. Neither he nor Schechner thought the dislocation was an accident. In that case, it could only have been caused by a blow. Nobody in the hall saw a punch knock the shoulder out, nor has such a blow been found in re-runs of the videotape.

However, the WBO has made McMillan the mandatory challenger and ordered a rematch, probably in January, after protests by Jonathan Randall, McMillan's adviser, and by Frank Warren, the promoter.

"I am disappointed," McMillan said. "But it wasn't a legitimate defeat. As soon as the shoulder is better, we'll get a rematch on."

Palacio said: "It's no way to win a fight. I want to prove I can beat McMillan again."

The WBO has asked for a videotape of the contest, to consider whether the decision should be reversed. Randall wants the WBO to declare the bout a no-contest.

The injury happened when, in the eighth round, McMillan's left arm was caught in an

awful position across Palacio's shoulder and the two men pulled away. Clearly it was an accident.

Warren said: "We believe Palacio pulled McMillan's arm and that pulled it out of the socket. In my opinion the referee lost control of the fight. The doctor told me that the dislocation was caused by a blow which had not been made by head-butts."

The general opinion was that McMillan could not box well because he did not have the punch to keep out a tough old South American pro. McMillan will have to be quicker on his feet next time and not be drawn into tight corners by the crafty Colombian.

McMillan showed that he could take a punch and come fighting back. In the third round he was in serious trouble but by the seventh was beginning to take control. There is no doubt that he would have won if he could have carried on.

Herol Graham has decided to fight on in the super-middleweight division. Graham, 33, who lost his British middleweight title to Frank Grant in Leeds last week, said: "I had to get quite a lot of weight off and, although I felt fit against Grant, I just got tired."



McMillan showed fight

HOCKEY

Hounslow successful again

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

HOUNSLOW added to their collection of hardware by retaining the English Club Champions Trophy with a hard-earned victory over Havant at East Grinstead yesterday.

No profit was gained from the new rule which requires the ball to be stopped outside the circle at a short corner. Havant had seven of these awards and Hounslow six. But although each side came

Ipswich ride their luck

IPSWICH opened their account in this year's National League with a narrow 1-0 victory over Sutton Coldfield on Saturday, a win that will go down as one of their luckiest in the League (Alix Ramsay writes).

Starting out with all guns blazing, Ipswich were a goal to the good after only 10 minutes when Vicky Dixon organised a cleverly-worked penalty corner and touched in the ball at the far post.

But Ipswich had an escape when Barbara Hamby

close to scoring on a couple of occasions, defenders generally prevailed.

Hounslow's opportunism eventually tipped the scales in their favour. Thompson doing exceptionally well to capitalise on two chances set up by Gordon. Thompson's effort earned him the man-of-the-match award.

Both sides adopted the Continental style of play with four players at the back, three in the middle and three up-front. This led to long periods of dull defence which did little to inspire the crowd of about 300.

Hounslow, however, made

pumped a penalty stroke to Jo Thompson's left to equalise, only to have the umpire disallow the goal, claiming Hamby had hit the ball rather than flicked it. Hamby was furious, while even Thompson expressed some surprise at the decision.

The first division has an unusual look to it after the first fixtures. Clifton, who normally prop up the table, are sitting proudly at the top after a 4-0 thrashing of Chelmsford, their new signing Yana Williams claiming two goals.

ROWING

Chief coach to be given more scope

A SHORTLIST of six candidates will be interviewed in two weeks' time for the post of chief coach to Britain's senior men's team (Mike Rosewell writes).

It was agreed at the Amateur Rowing Association Council meeting on Saturday that the successful candidate will be given full responsibility for selection as well as coaching and providing a technical lead to other coaches and athletes.

This represents a considerable change in direction for

British rowing which approached the last Olympic Games without a full-time senior team coach. The post of international performance director, held by Mark Lees up to the Olympics, disappears, but Brian Armstrong, the international rowing manager, remains.

Neil Thomas, retiring as ARA president next spring, described British rowing as being "on the crest of a wave". Forty-nine British athletes at senior, lightweight and junior level won 15 medals in the

year but Armstrong noted some disappointing performances among the seniors which will be discussed shortly at "wash-up meetings".

Martin Cross and Kate Brownlow, members of the men's and women's eights in Spain, aired the views of their fellow athletes. Cross said that there was "deep despondency among the men's and women's squads about selection", and Brownlow added that the council "should be given reasons for lack of discipline and late selection".

IN BRIEF

Navratilova unable to stop Connors

Jimmy Connors overpowered a nervous and error-prone Martina Navratilova 7-5, 6-2 in a \$500,000 exhibition tennis match on Friday. The match, which was watched by a crowd of 13,332 and televised live, lasted only 88 minutes.

Navratilova was given several rules advantages but could not capitalise.

Doubles delight

Tennis: John McEnroe and Pete Sampras put the United States into the Davis Cup final with a five-set win over Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd, of Sweden, on Saturday.

Pakistan's plan

Cricket: Khalid Mahmood, tour manager of the Pakistan team, said that his country would be proposing to the next meeting of the International Cricket Council that all host countries must get approval from touring teams for the list of umpires at matches.

Record-breaker

Rifle shooting: Margaret Thomas set a British final record at Bisley yesterday when she scored 677 out of 700 to win the Great Britain Pistol Council women's sport pistol championship.

Anderson wins

Cycling: Phil Anderson, of Australia, won the Nissan International Classic yesterday, although the final stage went to Louis de Koning, of Holland.

Royals supreme

World Corporate Games: Kingston Royals won the dragon boat racing finals yesterday at Surrey Docks, recording 1min 49.4sec for the half-kilometre sprint. They beat the favourites, Nuclear Electric.

SNOOKER

Wilkinson draws on inner steel

BY PHIL YATES

THE tenacity shown by Gary Wilkinson and Neal Foulds throughout the Regal Scottish Masters kept the score level at 4-4 in the opening session of the final at Motherwell Civic Centre yesterday.

Although Wilkinson, who beat Stephen Hendry, the world champion, and Steve Davis en route to the final, won the opening frame with a clearance from last red to pink, it was Foulds who impressively established a 3-1 lead, assisted by breaks of 34, 78 and 91.

At that point Foulds, the world No. 5, looked well placed to build a substantial lead by the interval in his attempt to capture a first title since the Dubai Masters of 1988. However, Wilkinson, who came back to beat Hendry 6-5 after trailing 5-1

in the quarter-finals, responded admirably.

He won a scrappy fifth frame and drew level at 3-3 with a clearance of 42 after Foulds failed to pot a straightforward red in prime position when he led 49-27 in the sixth frame.

A break of 86 gave Wilkinson the edge for the first time, only for Foulds to respond in turn and tie things up at the interval with a cleverly constructed run of 93 in the eighth frame.

Both players were left requiring six of the remaining 11 frames in the evening session of the best-of-19 frame match to collect a first prize of £40,000.

RESULTS: First: N. Foulds (Eng) level with G. Wilkinson (Eng), 4-4. Frame scores: Foulds (red): 35-82, 61-22, 78-0, 91-0, 36-8, 49-29, 0-118, 32-1. Semi-finals: Foulds to J. Williams (Eng), 6-2; Wilkinson to S. Davis (Eng), 6-4.

CYCLING

Dawson's route to title clears through fog

KEVIN Dawson won the season-long British best all-rounder time-trial championship yesterday without turning a pedal (Peter Bryan writes). The leader of the competition, based on average speeds for events at 50 and 100 miles and 12 hours, the Doncaster rider was one of 120 entered for the Harrogate Nova 50.

The trial, due to start at 7am, was delayed for an hour because thick fog had cut visibility to 40 yards on the opening ten-mile stretch between Wetherby and York. When conditions did not improve, concern over riders' safety caused the event to be abandoned.

Vaughan Caswell, the organiser, said: "We decided

that conditions were too dangerous. Fog is always a risk in this area at this time of the year."

Dawson echoed his sentiments: "With visibility so poor I had no hope of improving my time and neither did any of my rivals," he said.

The champion, who was runner-up last year, finished the series with an average speed of 26.77mph, helped by an outstanding 12-hour ride of 293 miles. This weekend he will meet the Olympic champion, Chris Boardman, in the 32-mile Delamare circuit time trial in Cheshire.

RESULTS: Men (professional): 1. K. Dawson (G.S. Stridale), 26.77mph; 2. G. Butler (Harrowwood Farm), 26.615; 3. C. Robblee (Harrowwood Farm), 25.928. Women: 5. Wright (Glebe), 27.0mph.



LOOKS p5
Every one a
gem: the
treasures of
great women



LIFE & TIMES

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28 1992

EDUCATION p7
University
rectors
fighting for
their lives



Big birds bath here

A sculpture by Gaudier-Brzeska has finally

Mail and the female

Failed or not, feminism provokes passionate views, as shown by this selection of abridged letters from readers in response to the debate



Lyndon as St Sebastian: from Andrea Mantegna's original (Ali Meyer/Bridgeman Art Library)

and having future contact with their children dependent upon her discretion. By contrast, a husband who is the victim of domestic violence and pursues divorce will be expelled from his home, required to sign over his property (even that owned before marriage) to his violent wife, support her financially and have future contact with their children dependent upon the violent wife's discretion.

The lack of legal defence or support for male victims of domestic violence is an injustice in itself. The fact that under law the victim must also lose both children and home is little short of obscene and almost certainly accounts for the low level of reporting of female-instigated domestic violence.

Bruce Lidington
Vice-Chairman, Families Need Fathers

Sins?

The day was quite different in tone to anything which would have attracted the same mix of successful women in the eighties. One male speaker related with some passion the story of his own father's life sacrificed to conventional workaholic behaviour, and declared himself much happier and more of a family man since he lost his main job. He pleaded with women not to make the same mistake. The floor applauded and me, I nearly went straight home to bake some hominy grits. A flamboyantly feminine Brazilian-born pundit traced the behaviour of working women firmly back to biology and culture, not to mention nursery doors.

It was hard to remember the days when anyone saying "Biology is destiny" had wine hung in his face. Whenever flexible working or humane management were mentioned, everyone immediately pointed out the advantage to both sexes and murmured "paternity leave, so important". A female haulage executive reported that her women's network now invited men to its meetings.

It was, in short, much less scandalously, manipulatively, angrily, proudly sinful than these things used to be.

And if any of the Essex chaps had offered me a turn in his seat, I wouldn't have turned on him with feminist scorn and shrieked "Body fascist". I would have taken it.

But none of them did.

Has feminism failed? You can still obtain tickets for the great debate on October 6, in which the speakers will be Neil Lyndon, seconded by Kenneth Minogue, and Yvonne Roberts, seconded by Beatrix Campbell. Coupon on Page 5



The forecast is three million deaths.

In parts of Africa they're not complaining about the weather, they're dying from it. In normally fertile Zimbabwe, the rains did not come, the crops have failed and the livestock has died.

Despite the fact that war and famine in Somalia have made the front page, the crisis there continues. In Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia 20 million people face starvation.

Christian Aid is sending food, seeds and tools, but much more is needed. Please give what you can. And prove the forecast wrong.

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on a low-loader lorry across the country to the Morris Singer Foundry at Basingsheath. The first cast of the birdbath, it was agreed, belonged to Mrs Raffles. It arrived outside the garden of her home near Saffron Walden on a 3-ton lorry. A 30ft crane lifted it over the telegraph wires and garden.

The second cast will go to Mr Simon's garden in Scotland. "It is a very small garden," he says. "And the birdbath is very big. I am a little nervous."

The third cast is for sale. "It is stupid not to have a third one to go into a public collection," Mrs Raffles says. Understandably neither is saying how much the exercise has cost as that would rather give the game away on price.

Ms Truzzi-Franconi says: "The full-sized casts are I suppose priceless. It is unlikely anything like this will be done again." Indeed once the third cast has been taken the mould will be broken.

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON

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vened by *She* magazine, and was just hauling some notes out of my briefcase when my eye fell on the headline about the newly leaked Roman Catholic catechism, complete with modern sins such as drunken driving, reading horoscopes, and forging cheques. Pausing only to marvel that a catechism could be secret enough to be "leaked" — is your damnation embargoed if you do them meanwhile? Do we have two months' grace in which to read Gipsy Petulengro without fear? — I indulged in a brief Garrickish snort about there being surely nothing left uncovered by the old concepts like chastity, charity and false idols anyway, and stuffed it back. Then I went in to listen to a most fascinating series of lectures on cultural trends, marketing, whether women managers are more sensitive (consensus: yes, but it is nothing to be smug about) and how advertisers see them (dangly earrings, power hairdos and lousy tempers, mainly).

By the end of the day, on the train home, I was ready to read it properly. I must admit that I had rather hoped for some up-to-the-minute new sins such as deliberately fermenting war between the sexes, panic selling of currencies, telephoto snapping, and taking

free holidays off infidels. Alas, none were there.

However, slander is now joined by "manipulating public opinion", which should wipe out politicians and journalists (with the possible exception of those who merely assault it without effect).

But then my mind veered back to the conference, and the always fascinating insights of the marketers. Did you know that just-add-water cake mix was a failure, but that when they changed the formula so you had to beat in an egg, women bought it because they felt they were still really cooking? That you can't sell doors if your ad shows them closed, because Anglo-Saxon babies are traumatised by their mothers putting them in their cots and closing the door? If you want to sell doors, photograph them ajar, preferably with Mummy on her way back in. I love these marketing theories. It seems a shame that the ingenious people who discover them should be damned for manipulation. But then, all advertising is based on the



seven deadly sins: I used to play a private game on the Underground escalators, gliding past the posters spotting the sins incited, at speed: "Gluttony, gluttony, lust, lust, envy, covetousness, lust, gluttony — er — pride ..." etc. Try it sometime.

Sin and work, sin and work. My mind spun (I am by now, remember, sitting on a hungry briefcase on the floor of a packed commuter train inching towards Colchester, with the weary snore of the men of Essex all around). The conference on working women had come as something of a surprise. Five years ago, any such gathering would have been exclusively about equal pay, glass ceilings, flexitime, harassment, childcare, etc. If things of the heart and spirit came into it, they would have been exclusively to do with women's feelings, the need for self-esteem and the benefits of networking. It would have been, in other words, prickly with envy, covetousness, anger, and pride.

But this wasn't. Call it the caring nineties if you like, call it the New Age or the feminist backlash, but

CAROL LEONARD

work, Crumley roundly declared that Parliament and government shared responsibility

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your order payable to Adam Ltd, Times Crossword Account to Adam Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Enquiries, telephone 081 852 4575 (open weekends). Please allow 14 days for delivery.

REBEL: Adolf Brenner's production, not universally admired on its first outing at Covent Garden, is revived with Gabriela Benachova again singing Leonore. Thomas Sunnegardh is Postema. Gregory Vanech sings Don Pizarro. Jeffrey Tate conducts. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1200), tonight, Thurs, 7.30pm.

KRONOS QUARTET: The world's most formidable string quartet, making their first London appearance for two years, plays a selection of the short, atmospheric pieces included on their latest recording, *Pieces of Africa*. The concert also includes Gershwin's *Quartet No 2* (Quasi una fantasia), premiered at the 1951 Hudson Festival. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-328 9800), 7.30pm.

WISDOM AND COMPASSION: THE SACRED ART OF TIBET: More than 100 rare paintings, sculptures and tapestries are brought together for this new show of Tibetan art dating from the 9th century to the present day and financially supported by The Times. An accessible introduction to the Buddhist ideas behind Tibet's complex culture, the exhibition offers an opportunity to discover an artistic heritage which has suffered greatly. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-439 1438), Daily, 10am-6pm, until Dec 12.

THE ART OF ANCIENT MEXICO: A selection of the finest Mexican art with the earliest exhibits dating from ten centuries before Christ. Although the show coincides with the Columbus Quincentenary, it celebrates a civilisation quite different from the culture imposed on Mexico by Spain. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (071-938 4141), Daily, 10am-6pm (Tues, Wed to 5pm), until Dec 6.

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Thrilling performances in Terry Johnson's fascinating three-part drama on AIDS, religion, politics, everything. National (Croydon), South Bank, SE1 (071-938 2323), Tonight, Thurs, 7.15pm, Sat, Wed, 1.30pm, 2.10pm.

COLQUHOUN AND MACRORY: Sometimes very funny, but always of two farcical partners who are heavily and are now forgotten. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-230 1743), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Neil Dorman's scorching psychological drama on the long for revenge. Penny Dwyer, David Webb and Hugh Ross make up the cast. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-536 5123), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

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FROM A JACK TO A KING: Witty and stylish version of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of London and packed with Silesia. Ambassadors, West Street, London WC2 (071-836 6111), Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm, 12.15pm.

SAMUELSON: Oleg Marshakov, Mark Rylance. Phil Daniels in superbly staged production of Gogol's "sting" drama. Theatre 503, London Road, W8 (071-328 1000), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

GRAND HOTEL: Musical barley sugar. Berlin in the Twenties. Sentimental, American, sentimental. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 9553), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

HAMLET: Alan Rickman. A generally low-key production. Riverside Studios, Croydon, W6 (081-748 3354), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm. (Solo out for complete run.)

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Dill's astonishingly powerful recreation of Pinter's drama of social responsibility. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-938 2323), Tonight, 7.15pm, 10.15pm.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Michael Tibben Thomas conducts Beethoven's Symphony No 5 in the LSO's "Discovery" concert series. The performance is preceded by an explanation of the work, together with musical examples from the repertoire, orchestral excerpts and accompanying slides. Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-538 8891), 7.30pm.

PHILIPAS ZUCKERMAN: The violinist gives a recital of sonatas by Bach, Beethoven and Franck. Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham (021-212 3333), 8pm.

PORTUGUESE CONCERTS: A series of concerts to launch young musicians on their careers began tonight with pianist Karl Lachauer. St Paul's, Kensington Park Road, London W11 (071-243 1847), tonight, Sat, 8pm.

MARC ALMOND: Two nights of melancholic pop grandeur as the second artist offers a retrospective of the career. Royal Court Hall, Nottingham (0426 482526), tonight, Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 7.30pm.

BILLY ELIOT: The 1992-93 season. National Theatre production of Keith Waterhouse and Clio Cullen's study of English adolescence goes on a nationwide tour. Royal Weymouth Playhouse, Weymouth (01925 530613), Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 6pm and 8.30pm.

THE ART OF ANCIENT MEXICO: A selection of the finest Mexican art with the earliest exhibits dating from ten centuries before Christ. Although the show coincides with the Columbus Quincentenary, it celebrates a civilisation quite different from the culture imposed on Mexico by Spain. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (071-938 4141), Daily, 10am-6pm (Tues, Wed to 5pm), until Dec 6.

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TELEVISION REVIEW

Bruised by the force of argument

RECENTLY I sat on a jury in a case in which a young black man was said to have headbutted one policeman and stamped on another's hand. Three officers gave evidence on oath against him. He had a shifty face and previous convictions, including one for assaulting a copper. Yet why had he emerged from a strangely long journey in a police van with quite so bruised a face? We ended up unanimously doing our civic duty: we found him not guilty.

I reminisce for two reasons. One is to assure the admirers of G.F. Newman, who wrote last night's play, *Black and Blue* (BBC 1), that I can see a helmet without assuming that Dixon of Dock Green is smiling beneath it. Paradoxically, the other is to register consternation at the extent of the cynicism we have come to feel about, especially, the Met. In that jury room were men and women, white and Asian, labourers, blue-collar workers, professionals and a lady of leisure, and none seemed surprised at the idea that the right arm of the law might misuse its muscle. No doubt it, there has been a massive shift of public opinion in recent years.

There are many explanations for that, but one of them may be the author of *Operation Bad Apple* and *Law and Order*, G.F. Newman himself. No dramatist has done more to spread the belief that corruption and violence are institutionalised among London's finest. That may be seen as a corrective both to the naive trust I and my fellow-jurors might once have felt and to the mindless admiration we are all encouraged, by some ra-ra police thrillers, to feel. But is that justification enough for *Black and Blue*, which claimed that our protectors combine

the ethics of Colombian cocaine barons with those of San Salvadoran death-squads?

The problem is the style. An authentic case-study would be fine. So would a tale of corruption set in an imaginary city. Each would warn us of what might happen if we fail to watch the watchers. But Newman opts for an in-between form that might be called paranoid documentary. This, it says, is London. This is the Met. Such things are happening. The effect can be to give specious authority to preposterous fictions.

True, *Black and Blue* had its boys' Own aspects. The protagonist was Maurice (Christopher John Hall), a cheerful black copper brought from Plymouth to become an undercover sleuth on a no-hope estate, clearly a black copper — I had just been told. But Newman seemed uninterested in making his hero's dashing escapades plausible or even comprehensible. His real aim was to expose those plundering, terrorising, and murdering the local populace; and most of them were Maurice's fellow-officers.

The play began as it meant to go on. A black man was beaten to death by detectives. A chief superintendent told his men, "if you're going to kick a black, do it right", and they duly proceeded to smash up a black woman's flat. After that, it was almost banal to discover that the drugs racket on the estate was stage-managed by the police and that the inevitable riot was provoked solely by their racism and violence.

With Linus Roache heading a strong cast of police villains, and David



Watchers to watch: Martin Shaw and Christopher John Hall

Hayman directing in tough cinematic style, the play had force and, at times, factious persuasiveness; and that, of course, was the trouble. Dramatists have power, too, and as Newman is always warning us, power

may be abused. Was not the irony of his *Black and Blue* that it succumbed to temptations he accused the Met of falling to resist?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

OPERA

Sounding better than it looks

Katya Kabanova
Sadler's Wells

TEMPORARILY deprived of its Sussex base, Glyndebourne Touring Opera launched its autumnal peregrinations on Thursday with a long overdue London debut at the Wells. For those of a certain age, hearing *Katya* in this theatre was an occasion for mis-eyed nostalgia: here it was in the Fifties and Sixties that so many of us first learned our Janáček, then an unknown maverick but now — thanks to the pioneering efforts of the old Sadler's Wells Opera — a composer central to the UK operatic repertoire.

It was good to be reminded how marvellous Janáček's *Katya* sounds in this theatre: punchy, clear, immediate. At least, that's how it sounded in a really carefully prepared performance under David Angus. Maybe he stressed the sheer beauty of the music — who can blame him? — at the expense of its pain, but there was just sufficient snarl in the brass, just enough menace lurking beneath the lyrical surface.

The overall pacing was correspondingly leisurely, but only in the tricky final monologue for the protagonist as there was any danger of the musical structure faltering. The insertion of a chunk of the overture into the middle of the first act was not, perhaps, a good idea, and I am still puzzling over what was shoved into the middle of the second to cover (quite unnecessarily) the scene change. But in general this was a consistently thought-through, very persuasive reading.

It was brilliantly cast. Susan Bullock's *Katya* was a worthy successor to her outstanding *Jenůfa* last year, acted with touching directness and sung with much subtlety; her bright light soprano rode the orchestra without any loss of sweetness, and even when singing on a thread of tone her voice projected easily into the auditorium. The casting of Eiddwen Harriey as the unspeakable mother-in-law was a masterstroke: it is a long time since we have heard this role so beautifully sung. And so on down the cast list.

RODNEY MILNES

MUSIC: NEW YORK

Bernstein to Beethoven

New York PO/Masur
Avery Fisher Hall

audience: the brass high, at times shrill, as if, sounded following. Unfortunately, Miss Battle sounded all too embattled. At the end of the first half she sang four early orchestral songs by Richard Strauss: after the first two, she had an attack of "dry mouth" and disappeared. After the interval, she sang "I feel pretty" and "Somewhere" from *West Side Story* with an excess of sunny niceness and finicky diction that was at odds with the material.

The *West Side Story* dances were the concert's high point. Even two years after his death, it is still moving to hear

JAMIE JAMES

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

SPRING, King Street: A. J. Turner's 19th-century landscape paintings. A. J. Turner's 19th-century landscape paintings. A. J. Turner's 19th-century landscape paintings.

CINEMA

DURHAM BLVD: A. J. Turner's 19th-century landscape paintings. A. J. Turner's 19th-century landscape paintings. A. J. Turner's 19th-century landscape paintings.

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OUR SONG

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ENTERTAINMENTS

Fast track into the 21st century

Railway architecture in Europe is entering a new heroic age. The 1990s will see the completion of a series of stupendous stations that will rival the great iron and glass termini of the 1860s and 1870s. What a contrast to the 1960s and 1970s, when the Beeching axe clinically removed the romance from rail travel and new stations, such as the ghastly concrete bunker at Euston, were virtually indistinguishable from antiseptic additions to hospitals like St Thomas opposite the Houses of Parliament.

Now, 20 years later, the concrete and glass box is no longer seen as the epitome of an efficient, user-friendly service. Railway companies are seeking to put glamour, sophistication and a sense of adventure back into station design.

Last year's triumphant re-inauguration of Liverpool Street station was followed in the spring by Seville's glistening new TGV station. Next comes the glass and steel armadillo of the Waterloo Channel Tunnel terminus, and after that, the amazing airport station at Lyons in the shape of a vast flying bird, planned for this year's winter Olympics.

Over the next few years the French railway SNCF will produce its own series of grand projects, almost on a par with President Mitterrand's. But the definitive "Station of the 21st Century" will surely be the one soon to be built by Netherlands Railways in Utrecht. It will be a city in itself, complete with sports halls, cinemas, shopping malls, housing and perhaps even a hospital. This marvel is scheduled for completion in 2015.

Like the great Victorian termini, these vast new stations are as much the creation of engineers as architects. Britain's Anthony Hunt, engineer for the new Waterloo, explains: "Stations, with airports and sports stadia, are the most exciting of all challenges for the structural engineer. They all require huge clear spans. And part of the challenge is not to keep looking over your shoulder at Brunel and the great railway engineers. They were so good that they are a constant inspiration. Our materials are much better, but many of the principles are much the same."

One novel aspect of Waterloo is that it is asymmetrical, with the curve of a sapling tied back to make an arch. The problem was that BR owns nothing beyond the tracks on the western side. "If we'd adopted a gradual arc the train would have banged its head," says Hunt.

To keep costs down it was essential to standardise parts and avoid individually tailored elements. But this was extremely difficult to achieve above snaking platforms that tapered from 48 metres to 36 at the mouth. With the architect Nicholas

Neglected for decades, railway architecture is being revitalised in breathtaking style.

Marcus Binney reports

Grimshaw, Hunt devised a system of adjustable joints, allowing the glass sheets to overlap like slates. "This way we avoided cutting toughened glass which is hideously expensive," he adds.

Sir Norman Foster is even more gung-ho about his latest model for the new King's Cross interchange: a glass-walled arrowhead set between Victorian King's Cross and St Pancras. "I don't know of a scheme anywhere in the world with such drama and excitement," says Foster. The billowing white roofs, shaped like fore-sails, are held aloft on just ten slender baseball-bat columns. Passengers, says Foster, "will descend through a lake in glass-walled escalators to the platforms".

But in the immediate future, the pace-

'One challenge for architects now is not to keep looking back at what Brunel did'

setter will be the Lyons airport station, designed by the Spanish engineer-architect Santiago Calatrava. Anthony Tischer, one of Calatrava's colleagues, explains: "It was very clear from the brief that they wanted a monumental structure. So Calatrava gave them this giant bird hovering above the tracks." There are six tracks but only four platforms, with two lines encased in concrete tubes for nonstop trains to race through the station at 300kph.

The new station at Roissy Airport outside Paris represents the co-operation between the Irish-born engineer Peter Rice and Paul Andreu, chief architect of French railways. This is another vast concourse with an all-over glass roof, like a conservatory. But the usual arched roof is turned upside down and supported on a single line of pylons opening out like outstretched fingers, with the edges of the roof anchored from outside by steel ties. Once again sheer bravura prevails. Next door Andreu has designed a breathtaking

aerofoil hotel in the shape of a vertical airplane wing.

The new generation of TGV stations express "the Colbertian strength of France," says Henry Bardsley, one of Rice's colleagues. "Projects like this would be unthinkable in a liberal democracy like England. But here buildings like these are not measured on cost-effectiveness alone. An element of national prestige is put into the equation even by the accountants."

Yet Swiss railways are following suit, too. Calatrava has designed a remarkable multi-level station at Stadelhofen, close to Zurich, with columns angled like insect legs. And at Chur, the junction for St Moritz, the British engineers Arups are building a transparent glazed canopy to provide views of the mountains.

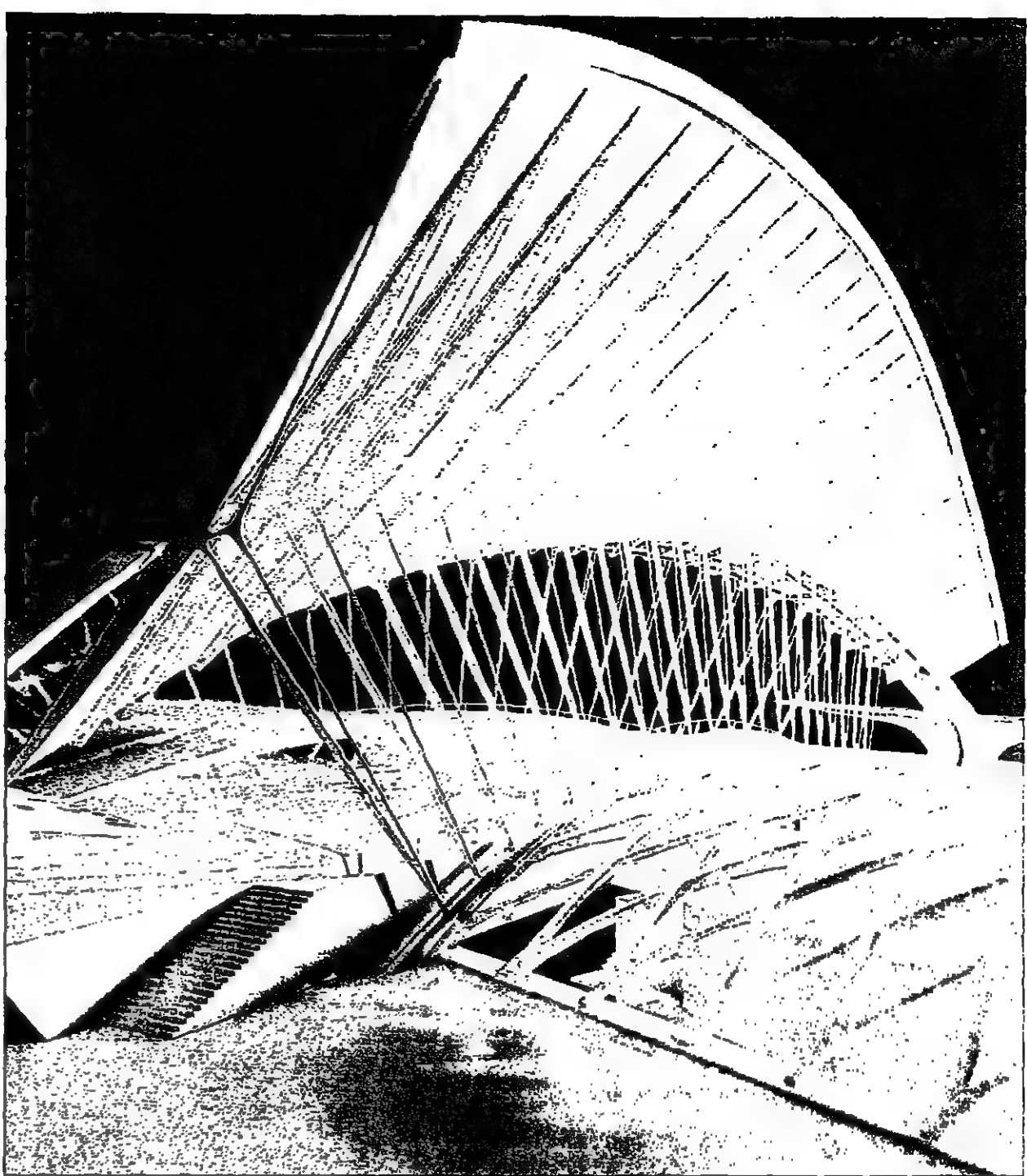
The pioneers here have been the Dutch. At Sloterdijk, between Amsterdam and Schiphol Airport, the railway architect Harry Reijnders designed one of the first of the stations of the future, a three-level interchange where express trains roll through the top of the all-glass concourse in transparent panels. Reijnders and his colleague Peter Kilsdonk have brought vivid colour to railway stations, with glass roofs kept constantly cleaned and polished from moving gantries.

The Dutch government — unlike the British — has a declared policy of wanting to stimulate the volume of public transport passengers by two or three times. Hence the proposal for the station of the 21st century at Utrecht, where Reijnders is working closely with the marketing department. The aim is to increase Utrecht passengers from the present 80,000-100,000 a day to 250,000 a day by 1995.

As no more than two extra platforms can be added, the plan is to lengthen them to nearly a kilometre with two or three trains stopping at each platform and snaking past each other. Moving pavements, like those at airports, will take passengers to departure gates, designed like the prow of a ship to provide an overall view of the trains.

"We notice that whenever the sun comes up passengers rush to the end of the platform and stand in the sun, even in winter," says Reijnders. So at Utrecht the upper-level bridges will open onto courtyards, sheltered from the wind, where passengers can wait in the open air.

Light, space and airiness will be the hallmarks of the crossrail stations planned by BR and London Underground between Paddington and Liverpool Street. Architect Will Alsop, who is working on Paddington, explains: "We want to create a sense of arrival. It will be the very opposite of, say, Gatwick station where you arrive full of anticipation at setting off



Bird on the line: model of the new Lyons station, designed by the Spanish architect-engineer Santiago Calatrava

in a jumbo across the world, yet find yourself on a dark, claustrophobic platform."

The challenge with the crossrail stations, in terms of light, is that they are underground. Alsop plans a continuous glass roof in the form of a 300m dorsal fin rising through the pavement, one metre high at the end, rising to six in the centre.

Ralph Erskine is working on designs for four of the crossrail stations: Bond Street, Tottenham Court Road, Farringdon and Liverpool Street. Best known for his eye-catching Ark beside Hammer-smith flyover, the Swedish-based architect

promises "revolutionary concepts that may be surprisingly economical."

"Imagine the Pantheon in Rome set underground," he says. "A great barrel-shaped space lit by a central aperture in the roof and filled with works of art, trees, even waterfalls, with open bridges, staircases and terraces where people can sit out in cafés in a protected environment."

For BR the challenge is two-fold. Not only is money tight but Britain already boasts some of the most historic stations to be found anywhere. Encouragingly, the firm favourite of Chris Green, the new managing director of InterCity, is Union

Station in Washington DC, where a concourse of imperial Roman proportions has been transformed into a shopping mall twice as elegant as Whiteleys.

Green also unites about Madrid Station. "The old concourse has been transformed into a beautiful botanical garden like a New Conservatory and a new concourse built alongside. St Pancras and Paddington both lend themselves to dramatic restorations of the kind not yet attempted." If he has his way, Britain will have its answer to the TGV grinds projects before the decade is out. But BR must keep its nerve, and its sense of vision.

Theatre: Jeremy Kingston previews a season of Edinburgh highlights at the Purcell Room

Fringe benefits and undiluted fun

For three weeks from tomorrow, there is some corner of London's South Bank which will seem forever Edinburgh. The shows are concentrated in just the one venue, the Purcell Room, sparing audiences the weight-reducing, ten-minute dash from a basement in Leith to a loft in Morningside. Two shows an evening, at 7.30 and 9.15, mean a gentler regime for the stage crew than the hectic turn-arounds required at the Pleasance, Traverse, and Assembly Rooms. Still, the content is what counts, and the Perrier Pick of the Fringe season for 1992 showcases 12 of the new or newest acts judged to be the funniest, cleverest, most daring — or all three combined — from this year's Festival.

Three of the four shows in the opening week look, intimately, at sex. Debbie Isitt's ferociously funny play for the Snarling Beesties, *The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband*, was staged at the Theatre Upstairs last winter, a rare example of a show that opened in London before playing Edinburgh. The cast of three, including Isitt, who also directs, tear into this warning tale of a faithless man, with razor-quick shifts of tone between comedy and rage, pain and panic.

Lily Savage's gorgeously vulgar drag act will be familiar to patrons of the club circuit. *Savage II — The Return* provides a further instalment in the shameless life of one who purports to be a Birkenhead mother of two. Dressed in curtain material nicked from a Hebridean hotel or blinding the eye with sequins,



Constantly threatening to plumb the depths: Steve Coogan and John Thomson

she/he also pays a mischievously absurd tribute to Marlene Dietrich, complete with lamp post.

The Perrier season programmes its 12 choices into three batches of four, each batch further divided into pairs which play Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, or Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. In the opening week, the first act of the second pair is to be Emily Wolf's *Sex III*, winner of a Fringe First, which I know only by repute as an acrobatic (she uses a trapeze) tale of a trip to Spain that

apparently leaves no sexual orientation unsatisfied. Sex is not the main thrust of the show that won the Perrier Award, *Steve Coogan In Character* with John Thomson, but it raises its head in coded form in Thomson's repertoire of jokes as told by a new age Northern comic, Bernard Right-On, who has seen the light. Constantly threatening to plumb the depths of sexism and racism, the pay-offs neatly subvert expectations. Coogan himself is the throat behind many *Spitting Image* voices, and his quintet

of all-too-often recognisable contemporary types includes an astonishingly real Tom Jones.

Scheduled for Week Two are two stand-ups, *Kevin Day — Or What?*, billed as *Streatham's Boy Wonder*, and the Glaswegian Bruce Morison, whose *Sin* offers an engaging trip round the Seven Deadly Sins. Though as skilful as they come, he manages to be as funny on glutony as he is with the others. Audiences can ask for the sin of their choice.

The second week also includes two shows very much to

my taste. Ben Miller's *Gone With Noakes* is a spoof documentary on the vanished idol of *Blue Peter* which mixes sublimely unimportant details of his life with swipes at Peter Purves and a slide-by-slide record of the quest to beard Noakes in his Balearic hideaway. *John Shuttleworth's Guide to Stardom*, written and performed by Graham Fellows, is another spoof, this time claiming to offer hints on how to succeed in showbiz from one who has honed his craft at many a garden fete in the Rotherham area. Weeks after catching his show at the Pleasance, I still find myself humming the tune of his ludicrous "Pigeons in Flight".

In the week of October 13, Eleanor Bron in *Desdemona — If Only You Had Spoken*, selects three of Christine Brooker's monologues, to give voice to the unheard wives of the famous. Sex again with *Mark Thomas*: devilishly funny and sometimes surreal glimpses of the famous caught with their pants down, a display of lewd-majesty and lewd-Cabinet which would have sent him to the Tower in days gone by.

Finally, the singing group, *Hell Bent, Heaven Bound*, and *Harry Hill "Flies"*, who won of the Most Promising Newcomer Award for his gently mocking, Harry Worth-ish account of the "nicer" breeds of dog, and how to make a pipe-cleaner man. All told, a wide range of shows to suit most tastes, and mineral water as well as stronger drink sure to be available at the bar.

● All shows at the Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800)

Concert: LSO/Tilson Thomas, Barbican Hall

Jibes hit minimal target

IN CONTRAST to the unfortunate damp squib of a premiere with which the London Philharmonic began its South Bank residency last week, the London Symphony Orchestra kicked off its new season in the Barbican on Thursday with a substantial work by its associate composer, Colin Matthews.

A commission shared by the LSO and the New World SO, *Hidden Variables*, in its full-orchestra version, is a *jeu d'esprit* with disturbing tendencies. Matthews has always given himself a free hand stylistically, but in this work he confronts head-on the minimalist techniques of several of his contemporaries. Adams, Glass, Reich and others are all in evidence — not in quotations as such, but in unmistakable allusions.

At one point, the references are dismissed with trombone glissandi that bring to mind Shostakovich's mauling at the hands of Bartok in the Concerto for Orchestra. But Mat-

thews's jibe is more unsettling because of the skill with which the "alien" style is grafted onto his own. The boundary between affectionate parody and something less indulgent is difficult to discern; therein lies the strength of the piece.

In Tchaikovsky's "Rococo" Variations, the LSO under Michael Tilson Thomas showed that it can play delicately enough when required: its accompaniments to Steven Isserlis's entrancing solo playing — skittish and pensive by turns — were clear proof of that. And yet, there could be no doubt that it was with the ballet music from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* that they felt

most at home. Typically, Tilson Thomas's selection of movements from the complete ballet (as opposed to merely the two well-known concert suites) threw the spotlight on Prokofiev's most virile, aggressive music. In the street quarrel scene, the scurrying *more perpetuo* of the strings, punctuated by sharp woodwind eruptions and tolling bells, had all the tension of a tightly wound spring. Both conductor and players were at their most brilliant here.

The famous Folk Dance, too, had a marvellously insouciant swagger, and it was interesting to hear that overspilling energy bring an almost Tchaikovskyian exhibitionism to the music of the balcony scene. Eventually passion was distilled into the natural beauty of a balmy night, though the asseverate emotionality was evident again in the clamorous grief of the final funeral march.

BARRY MILLINGTON

ARTS BRIEF

Crazy cleaning

SOHO's pride and joy, the Prince Edward Theatre, is to have a £3 million refurbishment ready for the West End opening of the revamped Gershwin musical *Crazy For You* next February. Its owners, Delfont Mackintosh (a joint venture of Lord Delfont's First Leisure and Cameron Mackintosh) has commissioned Rendon Howard Wood Levin, the architects responsible for the nearly-completed refurbishment of the Criterion and the Donmar Warehouse. Among the changes will be a recreation of the theatre's 1930s lighting.

On Broadway, *Crazy For You* has won three Tonys with its mixture of classics ("Embraceable You", "I Got Rhythm") and rediscovered Gershwin songs. The £3 million London production is to be directed by Mike Ockrent.

Genesis dates

CONSIDERING that some 120,000 fans turned out for their show at Knebworth in August, the veteran rock band Genesis seem to be playing in severely reduced circumstances on their forthcoming British tour. They have elected to do a sweep of regional theatres, some seating as few



Genesis on tour: small venues are beautiful?

as 1,800. Beginning at the Mayflower, Southampton on October 23, Genesis play at Newport Centre Hall (26), Wolverhampton Civic Hall (26), Newcastle City Hall (28), Edinburgh Playhouse (29) and Manchester Apollo (30). Tickets are by personal application only. The tour finishes in a less intimate but more typical environment for a super-group: the 18,000-capacity arena at Earls Court in London, where they play six nights from November 5.

Stepping out

ALTHOUGH Jose Manuel Carreno has left English National Ballet, he has not left British dance: the flashy Cuban is joining Covent Garden.

The Royal Ballet has announced that Carreno will become a principal dancer with the company next March. Carreno left the ENB at the end of last season.

Spooky record

THAT seemingly modest theatrical ghost story, Stephen Mallatrat's *The Woman in Black*, has notched up an unexpected record. Tonight it becomes the longest running show ever staged at London's Fortune Theatre. Its 1,374 performances since 1989 breaks the Fortune's previous record, held by *Murder at the Vicarage*. Based on Susan Hill's novel, *The Woman in Black* has gone on to play in 29 countries and 20 different languages; it opens on Broadway on November 19.

Last chance...

THE domestic life of rural gentry was an uncommon theme for Elizabethan playwrights. Thomas Heywood's *A Woman Killed With Kindness*, ending its run at the Barbican Pit on Wednesday (071-638 8891), is also unusual for its tone of positively Christian forgiveness. Both these rare ingredients are developed in Katie Mitchell's detailed, subtle production, set in a world of Yorkshire manors and wayside shrines. The performances of Michael Maloney and Saskia Reeves are outstanding.

Because the press were invited to the third of only four performances of Lord Byron's drama, this notice will appear after the play closes, which is a pity, since Edward Hall's animating production invigorates some knotty speeches of compressed theology and draws exceptional playing in the principle roles of Lucifer, Cain and Cain's anguished wife Adam. Even so, the short run is four performances longer than any previous professional production in this country. (Its first ever staging was in Russia, when Stanislavsky selected it to re-open the Moscow Arts Theatre after the October Revolution. A rum choice.)

Theatre: *Cain* revived at the Minerva in Chichester

Byronic twist to the Bible

Byron's popular reputation still being what it is, Byronic, his Cain might be expected to come across as a disdaintful rebel, seething in discontent. There is something of this in the aggressive wording of his prayer to Jehovah above the altar of first fruits, but in the context, following Abel's abject humility, it is clear that a man who has brooded over the human plight cannot speak otherwise. He has moved a short but significant distance

from sensing difference to acting upon it.

The interesting feature of this is that Samuel West shows Cain recapturing, in the scene following the murder, a youthful innocence that he must have lost long before the play begins. The burden of puzzle-moment, expressed through piercing stares at his dutifully worshipping family, has lifted with his crime. Another burden is taking its place, but this will be one he can understand.

Hall's odd notion of the Angel of the Lord, a school marmy type in white, snake-like sleeves, brings the only false note to his conception of the drama. The weight of resisting Lucifer rests upon Maria Miles's unafraid Adam. "I cannot answer this immortal thing," she tells Cain, giving the line a smile of worried joy, positive in the love she feels no urge to question.

Lucifer's entrance is a *coup de theatre*, raising himself

from the mound at the centre of Alice Normington's set, a saucer of golden sand filling the stage. His slow emergence and the flexing of his limbs occupies the time of Cain's wondering speech, illustrating Hall's concern to provide something to look at when Byron is overdoing the adjectives. With his young body, ageless face and grey hair, Alexis Denisof is an uncanny presence. Never raising his voice, nor smiling, murmuring his ironic questions and giving mysterious weight to his oft-repeated "I", he coolly inhabits the two worlds of physical and supernatural.

JEREMY KINGSTON

In the footsteps of my father

Fifty years ago, Jerome Caminada, a young *Times* reporter, began a remarkable adventure in wartime Eastern



Europe. Armed with a battered copy of her father's book on his experiences, Belinda Caminada (pictured above) has retraced his journey



Great escape: a picture taken in Siklos Castle, Hungary, in 1942 of British prisoners, among them Jerome Caminada (top row, centre) and Robert Johnson (bottom row, left)

The early morning ferry to Boulogne was brimming with jovial day trippers. They were seeking wines and cheeses. I was in pursuit of history and a dead father.

Having been scooped up by the victorious Nazi forces in Boulogne, my father was taken, via Berlin and Wulzburg castle, near Weissenberg in Bavaria, to Gliwicz, in Poland. Here he wrote that he felt helplessly enmeshed in the "centre of the web" but it was from Gliwicz that, against all the odds, he escaped.

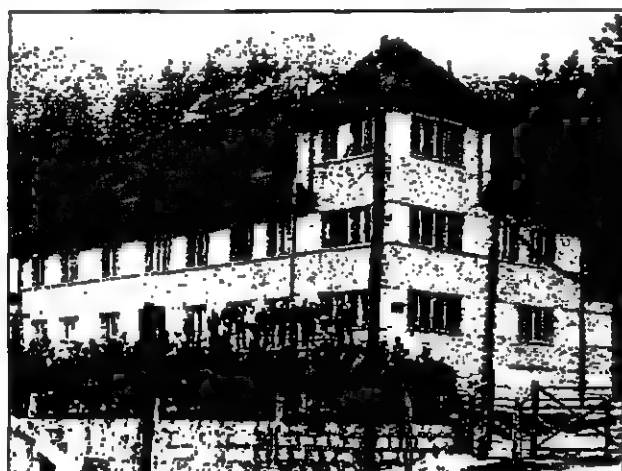
From the one barless window in the prison, two large planks joined by a wooden sleeve were pushed out 25ft to overshoot the perimeter wall. Following Robert Johnson, a Yorkshireman who had been captured in Denmark, my father crawled along the plank with his bag and boots strapped around his neck. When he was half way across, the plank broke but he managed to scramble over the wall to run off into the night.

Gliwicz is now Gliwice, a town well within Poland's borders and on the fringes of

its most industrialised, and polluted, region. I followed every lead, through factories, museums and town planning offices. The Poles took my cause as their own and all wanted to help. Everyone was adamant where the camp had stood but fingers pointed in different directions.

The confusion was understandable. Gliwicz had been ringed by four large concentration camps, satellites to Auschwitz. Understandably it was these, and not the 100 or so small internment camps, which had become the focus of what local knowledge there was on the period, and there was little of that. When the borders had shifted west, so had much of the German-speaking population and most elderly people had arrived in the area after 1945.

Clutching at his book's sparse clues, I hunted through the grubby suburbs, trying to distinguish a "large, stalwart dirty brown building" from the large, dirty grey constructions which had been thrown up in the past 50 years. But there was no trace of the prison nor of the first mile of their



Past and present: the building at Timisul de Jos, as a wartime jail (left) and (right) as a converted housing block



escape route, which had then run through open fields, down to the railway. Instead, there were tower blocks and pitted back streets where hens scratched in the earth and old women hunched over crumbling window sills.

These Poles directed humour, not suspicion or animosity, at the foreigner who stumbled along beside the railway tracks. Had it been here that the two runaways had hidden in bracken beds

Castle, my father's prison, had become my hotel, the Hotel Tenkes.

In many ways the castle looks more like a prison now than it did 50 years ago. Post-war looting and a government-funded "restoration" in the 1950s swept away many of the original proportions and the courtyard, where the Polish and British prisoners paced, is shrouded in ivy and

armaments. Perhaps it was these superficial changes which blocked thoughts of my father's life there. Sitting in the heavy heat it was particularly difficult to reflect on the Christmas he had shared here with the Polish prisoners, when they had cracked walnuts by jumping on them

backside first. The place of the prisoners had been taken by set-faced tourists sipping drinks on the terrace while their children demanded ice

I realised that the trip had shown me the dangers of straining to the past because it seems simpler than the present

creams. I tried to find an elderly local person who might have some knowledge of the camp in the war but here too, I drew a blank. The commandants and guards who manned the prisons had seldom been local men and the few personal reminiscences on offer were limited to a common memory of children sometimes being fed chocolate through fences by kind foreign prisoners.

When discussing the war with older Hungarians, I often detected an unease. It was as if they expected me to reproach

somehow common to all these Eastern and central Europeans.

Today the reproach is gentle and polite but still evident in the head-shaking over the former Yugoslavia.

"Why isn't Britain doing anything to stop the fighting?" I was asked repeatedly.

In 1943 the Hungarians agreed to have Johnson and my father released. They were brought to Budapest, where they were both fed by the city's cosmopolitan society and dogged by Nazi representatives. Frustrated by the col-

lapse of plans to flee to Britain, the two finally caught a train to Kolosvar (now Cluj Napoca) from where they walked across what was then the Romanian border, only to be arrested and interned once more.

At Timisul de Jos, in the Carpathians, the last of my father's prisons was easily discernible. From a distance the three-storey building looked identical to the one in the old photograph I had with me but a closer inspection showed it to have been badly neglected.

Quite how badly was explained by the present tenants, whose living conditions as rent-paying citizens in the 1990s were worse than they had been for enemy prisoners in the last world war.

In 1943, the Romanians had tried, like Hungary, to juggle Allied and Axis influences and Allied prisoners had been well treated. Interned with American airmen, my father had had the run of large, sunny rooms, with bath-rooms and toilets to hand. Cooking and washing was done by a couple of Russian prisoners.

Now the only running water is a standpipe outside. All 16 families share one small kitchen, basic toilets and the showers housed in rickety outbuildings which have been erected on what was the camp's exercise yard.

Strutting women clustered around the old photograph, admiring yesteryear's neat wall which had now partly collapsed and the "villa's" garden, now overgrown and littered with rubbish.

For my father none of those comforts could compensate for the fact that the fence had been mined and the guards had been ordered to shoot escapees. He participated in an attempt to dig a tunnel but it was discovered. One of the current tenants told me her husband had found the tunnel when clearing the basement some years ago but that it had been blocked off.

On August 24, 1944, the day before my father was to attempt another escape, Romania jumped to the Allied side and prisoners of war were freed. Two years after their original escape from Gliwicz, Johnson and my father finally arrived in Britain in September 1944.

The end of my journey left me confused. On one level, I had enjoyed rolling across Europe, chatting to a cross-section of Germans, Poles,

Slovaks, Hungarians and Romanians. Their company was not enough, however, to dispel a creeping sadness.

I had somehow hoped to ease the absence of my father. Seven years after his death, I thought that if I immersed myself in one of the major events of his life, then perhaps the divide between us would not be so great or so painful.

In fact, at each location, the rift widened and deepened and in the very places where he had fretted because he couldn't go forward, I fretted because I couldn't reach back. I realised that the trip had shown me the dangers of straining to the past because it seems simpler than the present. Above all, my journey had taught me to accept the gulf between my living and his death. Which is just what he would have wanted.

After the war, Jerome Caminada worked for The Times for 36 years. He died in 1985. Extracts from My Purpose Holds, by Jerome Caminada, published in 1952, appear courtesy of Jonathan Cape.

A tomb with a view

Grave tidings of Robert Maxwell

"Robert Maxwell, Robert Maxwell," cries the Arab peddler, ripping open the passenger door as my taxi labours up the Mount of Olives.

I call his bluff. "Who's he?" I ask. "Maxwell, Maxwell," he says, gesticulating in the direction of the graves in the nearby cemetery. He beckons to his friend. The friend enlightens me. "He big miliardair in America." "I see," I say, "and what happened to him?" "Bad men push him in sea..." "Ah, that's what it was." "Twenty shekels (£5.00). I show you his grave."

He leads me down among the olive trees to the grave-stones and stops by a massive marble slab, the sort of thing you'd find in a tycoon's bathroom.

A wizened old man is perched on a headstone. He points to the pebbles and the tiny piece of green glass on Maxwell's grave. "Visitors come," he tells me in pidgin Hebrew. There are no flowers in Jewish cemeteries, visitors place pebbles on the grave as a mark of respect. The old man starts talking again. "I dig Maxwell's grave. Many people give me money. Obviously, his information service, though unsolicited, is not free. 'So tell me,' I ask. 'Who was Maxwell?' 'He terrible person, steal money from old people. They spit on him from there' — and he points to a railing up above the cemetery."

"You write in big newspaper? You want my photo — only 20 shekels?" He produces a wad of immaculate business cards: Abdul Hameed, Grave Digger, Mount of Olives, PO Box 143, Jerusalem.

"Maxwell good for business," he grins and explains that business cards have been a must since Maxwell moved in. The taxi driver prods me. "You have to give him something," he reminds me. I fumble in my pocket for ten shekels. Abdul stares at it disparagingly. Maxwell has obviously caused inflation on the Mount of Olives.

"Why did Maxwell choose to be buried here?" I ask the taxi driver. "I mean, he could hardly have called himself an Orthodox Jew." "Well," says Moshe, "it goes like this. Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives, Mary ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives, Mohammed ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives — it was like an international airport — just Maxwell's style."

SUZANNE GLASS

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BELOFF



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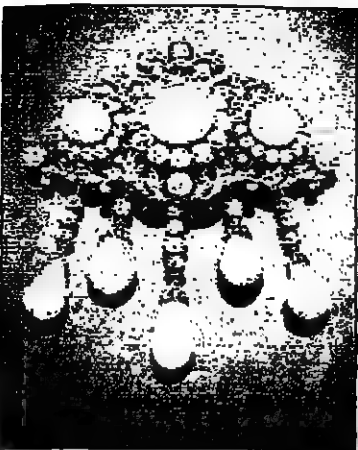
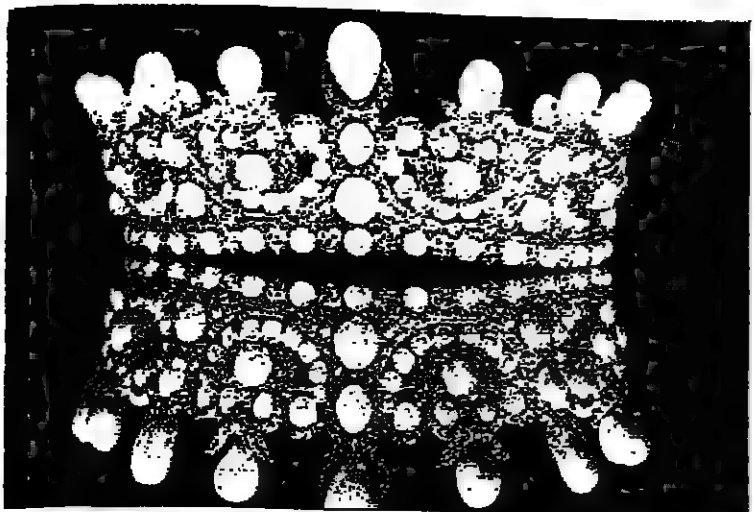
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Every gem tells a story



The legends of the women who wore them give added lustre to famous jewellery collections. Vivienne Becker casts an eye on the treasures that go on sale this autumn

This autumn a glut of jewellery auctions around the world focuses on jewels once owned and worn by rich and famous women. These range from the aristocratic Princess Gloria von Thurn und Taxis, through the glamorous Mrs Harry Winston and mysterious Marlene Dietrich to the dearly beloved British institution, Diana Dors. Jewels were clearly important to all of them. Each collection is a fascinating reflection of the woman herself.

The truly magnificent pedigree jewels that are being sold by the widow of Prince Johannes von Thurn und Taxis, who died nearly two years ago, are as much a part of her world as Diana Dors's Kuchinsky sparklers were a part of hers. For the house of Thurn und Taxis, jewels signify heritage and history, the essential trappings of grandeur. Princess Gloria, faced with huge death duties and supervising her young son's inheritance, has decided to rationalise the massive art collections amassed by her late husband's family over the past 500 years. It seems that despite the importance and sumptuousness of the jewels which go on show in London at Sotheby's, Bond Street, from October 4 to 7 and then on sale at Sotheby's Geneva in November, there are plenty more where they came from, and the "punk" Princess, so-called because of some of her wilder hairdos, will not be left gem-less in Regensburg. Nor, however, are they all her rejects: the jewels she has so carefully decided to sell have been worn by her on several public occasions, when, clearly undaunted, she tackled the heirlooms with modern panache, bringing the past very much into the present.

Some of the most ravishing Thurn und Taxis jewels are descendants of the French crown jewels, which were reset to her own taste by the Empress Eugénie. A majestic pearl and diamond tiara, which should fetch £120,000-£200,000 at Sotheby's, was commissioned by Napoleon III for his marriage to Eugénie in 1853 and was made by the jeweller Lemonnier from stones and pearls in the state treasury. After the fall of the Second Empire, and the dispersal of the French crown jewels, the tiara was acquired by Prince Albert von Thurn und Taxis and given as a wedding present to Princess Margarethe in 1889. Princess Gloria wore it on her wedding day, along with a monumental pearl and diamond corsage ornament, also being turfed out of the aristocratic attic.

The stunning 18th-century diamond tiara, with this impeccable provenance, including two in the form of the Order of the Golden Fleece, are perhaps among the rarest and most historic-antique jewels ever sold, the sort of treasures found only in museums or royal collections. In the sale they rub shoulders with more modern family acquisitions, by Carter and David Webb. Several pieces were given to the princess by her husband, who was a connoisseur.

On October 20, appropriately in New York, Sotheby's disperses the glossy jewel collection of the late Mrs Harry Winston, bought for her by her husband, New York's celebrated "King of Diamonds", Harry Winston, founder of the famous 5th Avenue jewellery shop. As they say in New York, if Edna Winston did not have the best jewellery in the world, who should? This is a collection that tells of a woman for whom life revolved around luscious gems. It tells of gifts of love, of a lifetime passion for beautiful stones, and also of the luxury and conspicuous wealth of the 1950s and 1960s, the last great era of extravagant dressing.

The jewels made by Winston for the woman he loved express his fearlessness in handling the world's most valuable stones and hers in wearing them. They illustrate his distinctive new style. Reacting against the heavy metal settings of the 1940s, Winston created light, almost invisible mounts so that the gems sparkled alone. He made leafy, petal-like arrangements and framed large stones only with smaller ones. A self-made man, Winston possessed a rare instinct for gems, treating them like children who needed to be nurtured and loved to bring out their full potential. Classics in the collection include a staggering pair of diamond chandelier earrings and a completely flexible bracelet.

A very different kind of jewelled legend crops up in the same sale: a sensational ruby and diamond bracelet that belonged to Marlene Dietrich. This bracelet oozes drama through its powerful design and shameless spread of blood-red rubies. Made in France in 1937, it is a masterpiece of late 1930s design, which combined mechanical motifs with those of flowers and fabrics.

Dressed in Dior, the star wore this bracelet in the Hitchcock film *Stage Fright* in 1950. After the film she put the bracelet away and never wore it again.



Pearls and diamonds: Princess Gloria von Thurn und Taxis at her wedding to Prince Johannes sports the tiara (top left) and *décolleté* (left) which go on sale in Geneva in November

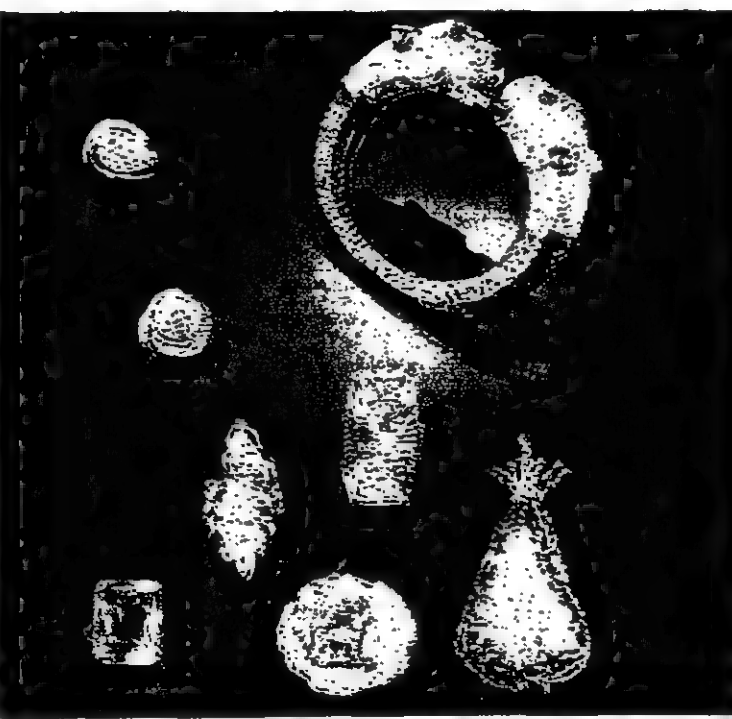
Meanwhile, back in London, so-called 1960s starlet Diana Dors are set before the public at Sotheby's on October 8. Famous for being famous, she revelled in her stardom, playing her sex-goddess image to the hilt, enjoying all the clichés of film-star glamour, fun, a Hollywood home, a swimming pool, several husbands and, of course, jewels. These were acquired on a star-like shopping spree at Kuchinsky in London, who made expensive modern jewels for the adventurous, newly rich. She bought the latest, bold 1960s and 1970s British jewellery in

chunky gold, paved with diamonds, a panther bangle and a quintessential 1960s jewel of gold twigs enclosing a lump of amethyst crystal.

Do these personal connections affect prices, or is this simply sale-room hype? As jewels are by far the most personal of all the decorative arts, it seems that buyers are prepared to pay a premium for a legendary or romantic provenance. It depends of course on the provenance, how evocative the jewel is and on the buyer's affection for a particular celebrity. Today the cult of personality is stronger than ever. The

Duchess of Windsor's sale was the ultimate example, while at the sale of Ava Gardner's jewels in London a few years ago, the star's lingering touch doubled some prices. David Callaghan of Hancock's, London, which specialises in antique jewellery, says, "A positive provenance usually helps, especially if the piece is rather ordinary. Fine jewels will sell well anyway." Laurence Graff, today's gemstone dealer extraordinaire, believes in the intrinsic beauty of a stone. "The diamond is more important than the provenance."

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Fallen star: jewellery owned by the late Diana Dors (right), including a bangle by Kuchinsky

Beauty aids for the manly beast

With body polishes, facial scrubs and "panthermal therapy", men's personal hygiene has come of age

You hear a lot about men's grooming these days. The less pornographic men's magazines are always hinting to their readers that if they use a cleanser, an exfoliant and a toner, iron their boxer shorts and brush their teeth they'll be much more in demand. Recognising this, the Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane, London, now offers a "Men's Grooming Day", at which in theory even the dirtiest layabout can be put on the beautician's conveyor belt and emerge at the other end a presentable, even kissable specimen. For £120 you could be a new man.

I went along expecting the underground spa to be done out like a locker room or a gent's barbers (many are lured to those for the Prussian rush of old father-son memories), but in fact the atmosphere was borderline-feminine, lots of whites and pastels, and more importantly, lots of women walking around with their hair up. So much for themed leisure.

Anything to do with the Dorchester is going to be expensive and involve a fluffy white slipper too. The only male staff of the day, Mr. pointed me in the direction of the showers, to get the first layer of dirt off, but from then on you are in women's hands. The first treatment is actually something of a folly designed to flatter men's view of their bodies as sporting machines. Sarah from the gym gave me a Fitness Assessment, which involved a bit of lifting, stretching and pedalling, and an amusing computer programme. It's useful, because even if you are the proverbial fat slob, you'll only be told so in the nicest possible terms.

Anita took over for the next stage, which began with the All Over Body Polish. This consisted of lying down and being rubbed with a body scrub cream, into which were mixed coarse sea salt grains to exfoliate the top layer of dead skin cells. It was like being scoured with a lemon household scourer, without the lemon, but the result was a pleasant tingling, all over. "Contrary to what people think," says Anita, a down-to-earth 40-ish woman from Essex with a reassuringly in-it-all-before attitude as to whether you keep your shorts on or not, "most men who come here say they prefer to see a woman."

To remove the gritty cream, Anita takes you into a long tiled room and turns a hose on you, aka Jet Shower Body Treatment. The water drills into your lymph glands to stimulate the body's drainage system (drainage of what, I never found out, since I was too worried about her hitting a different drainage system to ask).

But that's the worst of the

symbolic castration stuff over with. From now on it becomes more and more like the intensive care and pampering that men are supposed to envy women for. The Panthermal Therapy Bath is a gloriously absurd contraption, very similar to Michael Jackson's hyperbaric chamber. You get into what amounts to a steam iron maiden, lie on a slatted wooden bed with your head poking out the top, and get very gently steamed. This opens the skin pores. An oxygen-enriched stream of air then flows over your body, which is meant to be absorbed into the blood pulsing close to your newly stimulated skin. I didn't feel any different, but it is a nice idea. Then, like a dishwasher, the internal spray coats you in essential oils (Anita chose frankincense for its "healing properties"), finishing off with a rinse.

That only left the relaxing Body Rub with Pine and Eucalyptus oil (for the respiratory system) before a gruelling lunch by the fountain. Simon, 28, ("I'm in retail menswear at the moment") who has used the service before, had his reasons. "It's an effective way to relax on a day off, but mainly it's a good place to hide from the girlfriend." It did indeed seem to be an essentially solitary activity, people padding around with *Harpers & Queen* or staring at Westminster Cable TV. Could this ever take over from

noisy Turkish baths? The afternoon's Facial and Manicure (or Hand Nail Care Programme) flew by. I've always wondered what a facial is, and now I can reveal that, what they do is they clean your face. Oh yes. The beauty is that they do everything you could do yourself at home — the cleanser, exfoliant and toner routine, the mud mask and enriched moisturiser, right down to blackhead popping. The deal is, you keep it clean yourself from now on (products are subtly recommended), and when you fall in a month's time you come back and have Anne do it all again.

By contrast, Manicure For Men isn't very exciting. After the heated mittens full of hand cream, all it amounts to is having your cuticles removed, the dirt scooped out and your nails clipped square (the current trend for both sexes, apparently). Once again, the subtlety was hygiene. I must admit, at £120, it makes you think twice about where you put them next. But maybe this is where the battle to get man well groomed will be won. Emerging as one of the shiny happy people, I realised what I had really come for was the enriched vocabulary.

JOSEPH GALLIVAN
© Times Newspapers Ltd 1992

There have long been disadvantages in being tall. Now long people are gathering to act

High time to bend a collective ear



Well ahead: "tallies" Robert Bruinjes (left) and Chris Greener

A little known fact, according to Philip Heinrich (pronounced Hine-Reachie) is that the length of the standard size British bed has not changed since around 1860.

On the other hand the height of the average Briton has increased 4in in the same period to the point that 25 per cent of the adult male population is now 6ft or over.

If, like Mr Heinrich, you are 6ft 8in tall and founder of the Tall Persons Club of Great Britain, this sort of thing matters. Because one thing apart from death and taxes is certain in this life: if you are different you will pay for it — in the case of an extra long bed, 12.5 per cent more for every three inches over 6ft 6in.

It was to right this sort of wrong that Mr Heinrich set up the club just over a year ago. And this week he will be able to claim some lobbying success with bed manufacturers when the club assembles at the Salvation Hotel, Perth, for its Highland fling.

Mr Heinrich is a 39-year-old one-time insurance salesman who runs the club, a newsletter and goods and

clothing directory from his home in Hereford. His wife Carol, who is 5ft 3in, has been very understanding, he says. In his one year existence the club has signed up 1,400 "tallies", as he calls them.

"I realised that whenever tallies meet the first thing they ask one another is where they get their clothes. It struck me that we should pool all our information," Mr Heinrich says.

But what he did not realise was that as a group tallies are highly gregarious. Within weeks of forming the club members were asking when they were going to have their first party.

A room was booked at a Datchet Hotel, near Windsor. Somehow or other the word went out on some tall person's grapevine and excited tallies poured in from Aberdeen to Exeter and even from Holland where tall people tend to be very tall indeed.

"We were well over the limit. The hotel was very worried about the fire regulations," Mr Heinrich recalls.

In May there was a tall person's convention in Vienna. In August UK tallies held a

birthday party in Stockport. And now the Scottish tallies have mapped out three days of entertainment including a visit to Edrour, the country's smallest distillery.

The Perth office of travel agents Thomas Cook, charged with organising the event, fixed 10 hotels in the area to check room and shower heights and bed lengths. The Salvation, whose ballroom is 17ft high (measured personally by Thomas Cook's manager) was eventually chosen.

The Scottish trip has been organised by Ingrid Clayden, a nematologist (worms) and head of administration with the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency.

At 5ft 11in Dr Clayden is by no means freakish. But as the club's founder likes to say: "Height is in the mind."

For tall women the most common complaint, apart from the difficulty with clothes, is that men apparently feel free to comment on their height and have a tendency to aggressiveness. "I call it the Napoleon syndrome," Dr Clayden says, unaggressively. "Tall people tend to be treated as strong and confident

because of their physical image. But very often it is quite the opposite. They have spent all their teenage years sticking out in a crowd and wishing they could be average."

Teenage support and support for parents of tall children is one of Mr Heinrich's particular aims for the club.

"A lot of tall people are painfully shy, often as a result of being treated differently at school by teachers as well as other children," he says.

"Tall people often gain in confidence just by realising they are not alone."

It is also one of Mr Heinrich's crusades that the standard kitchen unit be raised from 90cm to 1m. "Less back problems, fewer lost working days, lower NHS costs. It would be worth it," he says.

But what tallies are looking forward to at Perth this week almost more than anything else, is being able to talk to people without bending down all the time to hear what they are saying.

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON
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Has feminism failed?

Return the coupon below for tickets to the debate on women at the Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London (October 6, 7.30pm). The speakers will be Neil Lyndon, seconded by Kenneth Minogue, and Yvonne Roberts, seconded by Beatrix Campbell.

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That's no wife, that's my bird

Michael Brooke cocks a quizzical eye at the doings of our supposedly monogamous feathered and furred friends, and finds adultery rampant

In certain parts of Great Britain, not necessarily those where *The Times* is the most widely read newspaper, 30 per cent of people are actually fathered by a man other than the one they acknowledge as father. Yet such a degree of infidelity is matched, and often surpassed among wild animals, so delegates at the recent International Behavioural Ecology Congress held at Princeton University learnt.

The now-routine use of DNA fingerprinting has made possible the precise determination of paternity. That determination has in turn revealed how often birds and mammals stray from monogamy. Since infidelity is known to be commonplace, biologists are exploring the tactics that animals use to obtain matings outside the pair bond. In particular, how do males disseminate the enormous number of sperm that their testes create into as many females as possible? But first, down to some nitty-gritty evidence.

Male superb blue fairy wrens are dazzling iridescent blue. They live in Australia, for example in the Canberra suburbs, and set a standard of licentiousness that other species are hard-pressed to beat. Normally the fairy wrens live in groups comprising a male-female pair and up to three supernumerary males. When Raoul Mulder of the Australian National University in Canberra genetically fingerprinted the young raised by wren groups, he found that 78 per cent were not sired by the putative father, but by males from outside the group.

Such promiscuity is not just the preserve of birds of hot climes.

By any standards, reed buntings of temperate regions are pretty drab brown birds. They are not drab in behaviour. Those studied by Andrew Dixon of Leicester University in the surrounds of Rutland Water were generally mo-

nomagous. Nevertheless, 86 per cent of broods contained young fathered by a cock other than the hen's regular partner.

Even the familiar chaffinch is no paragon of virtue. Near Sheffield, about 17 per cent of young are the result of adulterous matings.

If males are at risk of cuckoldry, there is every reason to expect them to take countermeasures. One possible technique would be to produce more sperm. Then, on copulating with his mate, a male would ejaculate greater numbers of sperm and, for straightforward statistical reasons, increase the chance that one of his sperm, rather than one ejaculated by another male, would be the lucky one to fertilise the egg.

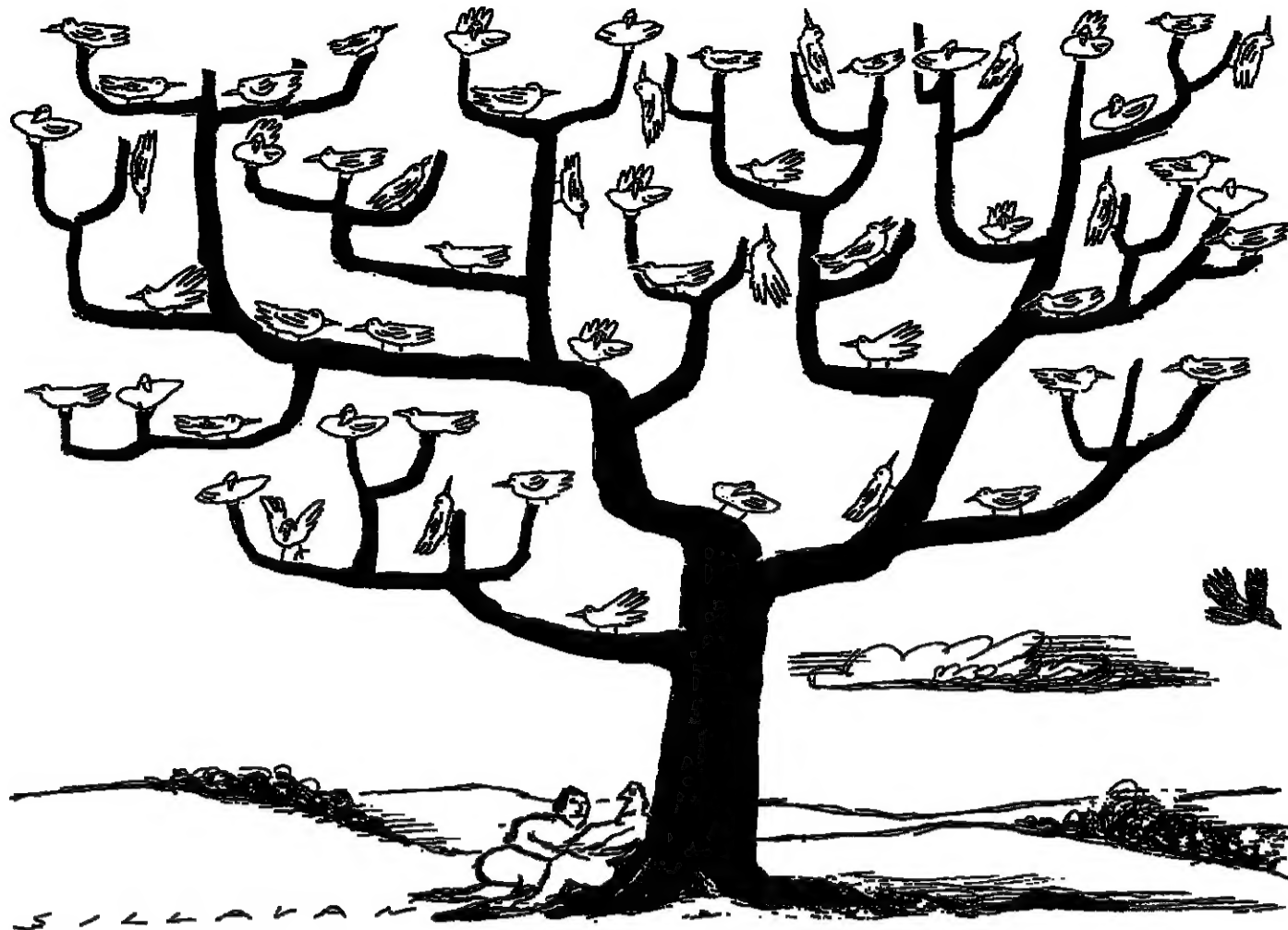
Such an argument probably explains why male primates living in multi-male polyandrous groups, where several males may mate with one oestrous female, tend to have relatively large testes. The chimpanzee is one such primate.

Where a single male has sole access to an oestrous female, for example in a gorilla group, the testes are proportionately smaller. (For the curious, humans are closer to gorillas than to chimpanzees when it comes to the size of the scrotum's contents.)

Is there evidence that the greater sperm production capacity of larger testes is exploited in a way likely to minimise cuckoldry? Female Smith's longspurs of the North American tundra mate with more than one male for each clutch. In fact, they copulate more than 350 times a clutch.

From one point of view, this is sheer overkill; far more sperm are inseminated than will ever score a hit. But from the point of view of each male longspur surviving to ensure that the sperm produced by his rather large testes take precedence over those of other males, the more copulations the better.

Even with enlarged testes, it could pay a male to inseminate



more sperm when the perceived risk of cuckoldry was higher, and to inseminate fewer when the risk was lower. Drs Robin Baker and Mark Bellis of Manchester University described such tactical adjustment on the part of men.

They enlisted the help of 15 couples and asked them to collect the man's ejaculate in a condom when they made love. It turned out that men who, since last making love, had spent nearly all their time with their partners, ejaculated only 200 million sperm, far fewer than the 600 million discharged by men who had been mostly separated from their partner. The time since last intercourse did not affect the number of sperm in the condom.

Is it the case, wonder Drs Baker and Bellis, that men who are separated from their loved ones ejaculate more sperm to overwhelm any other man's sperm that the partner might have taken on board while out of sight. Such a flushing

could reduce the chance that the man would be left, very literally, holding someone else's baby. Not a negligible risk, as we have seen.

While males can compete in terms of sperm output, they could also potentially compete in terms of sperm quality. The faster a sperm can swim up the female tract to the egg, the better. Since longer sperm can swim faster, one might guess that the males of polyandrous species would tend to ejaculate longer sperm than the males of monogamous species. Cambridge University's Montserrat Comendro reported just such an effect in primates and rodents.

Speed is not the only means by which one male's sperm could conquer those of another. With human ejaculate containing up to 11 different types of sperm, it is possible, believes Dr Baker, that some have roles other than fertilisation. For exam-

ple, coiled-tail sperm may form plugs to block the progress of other, later sperm.

The fact that males are, in their various ways, battling for access to the glittering prize, the female egg, need not imply lack of interest in females in the outcome of the battle. Females could benefit from tilting the playing field in favour of certain males.

Such favouritism might help to ensure that the female was fertilised by the best male genes, to the benefit of her sons and daughters. Obviously, female choice could operate pre-coitally. But hints of subtle post-coital processes are emerging.

When experimenters from Queen's University, Ontario, removed the male from pairs of North American tree swallows midway during laying, the "widowed" female tree swallow usually acquired a new mate, with whom she sometimes copulated.

Nevertheless, DNA fingerprint-

ing showed virtually none of the young to have been sired by the new mate; the female tree swallows seemed able to render ineffective the copulations of that new mate.

Closer to home, women lose large numbers of sperm after intercourse flowback. Dr Baker reported the typical loss as about 50 per cent, but on occasions loss can be almost total. The loss is partly determined by whether or not the woman has an orgasm and, if she does, when during intercourse it occurs.

If, as seems likely, the probability of orgasm is influenced by a woman's recent fidelity—or lack of it—then, Dr Baker reckons, a woman might be exercising control over how much of whose sperm she retains. Whether or not that control is conscious does not alter the conclusion that the battle of the sexes is a multi-layered combat permeating all of the animal kingdom.

Dr Brooke is a research zoologist at Cambridge University.

Naming has an ugly element

TOM Lehrer wrote a song wittily listing the elements, but even he might be daunted by the need to include the latest three named, numbers 107, 108 and 109 in the Periodic Table.

In a ceremony at the German Heavy Ion Research Society's laboratory, 107 was given the name *nihonium*, after Niels Bohr. 108 was named *hassium*, after the Latin name for Hesse, where the laboratory is located, and 109 was called *meitnerium*, after Lise Meitner, the co-discoverer of nuclear fission.

All the elements since fermium, number 100 in the Periodic Table, are transitory and are of mainly theoretical interest. This does not stop them being the subject of fierce argument, however. For more than 20 years the American chemist Dr Glenn Seaborg, the grandfather of this branch of science, and Russian scientists from the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research have clashed, both claiming to have discovered elements 104 and 105.

The Americans wanted to call them rutherfordium and hahnium, while the Russians favoured kurchatovium and nielsbohrium. Earlier this year a working group from the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and its equivalent in physics credited the two groups jointly with the discovery, to the fury of Dr Seaborg.

The chemistry group has refrained from publishing the finding until Dr Seaborg has written a commentary, according to the journal *Science*, but the physics body went ahead. As a result, the two elements remain unnamed, although they were discovered in the 1960s. Nielsbohrium is already spoken for, so the Russians will have to think of a new name. But don't bet on seaborgium.

NIGEL HAWKES

UPDATE

An end to animal testing?

A NEW test using skin grown in culture could replace animals in the testing of new products such as household cleaners and cosmetics, according to the American company Procter & Gamble. Gordon Brunner, the company's senior vice-president for research and development, says: "Using our new test as a screen, we can now quickly tell whether a new water-insoluble ingredient or product in development may damage a person's eye." The company has invested more than \$24 million (about £14 million) since 1984 to develop alternatives to animal tests. Skin cells are grown on a nylon mesh, and products to be tested are placed directly on the skin. "We can determine the effects of mascara, face cream, powder, gels or lipstick that might accidentally get into the eye," says Rosemarie Osborne, a toxicologist for the company.

Kangaroo clue

BONES found in northern Australia could be part of an unknown group of giant marsupials that existed up to four million years ago. The bones, found on a farm at Charters Towers, 60 miles west of Townsville, New South Wales, included a jawbone with both upper and lower jaw and teeth. Mike Archer, associate professor of palaeontology at the University of New South Wales, says: "It's certainly nothing we have seen before. The bones are either from an age we don't know about or an age we do know but a species we have never seen before." They show that the animal had a very narrow jaw and a very long tongue. It was definitely a quadruped marsupial—a pouched animal belonging to the group that includes the kangaroo, wombat and koala.

Ozone loss

OZONE levels over the South Pole and McMurdo Stations in the Antarctic have been reduced by the effect of volcanic eruptions. The record lows reported in September 1991 appear to be linked to the eruption of Mount Hudson in Chile the month before, according to a report published in *Nature* by Dr David Hoffman and colleagues from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. The eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in June 1991 may also have contributed.

Space rays

MYSTERIOUS bursts of gamma rays from space could be the result of two neutron stars coalescing.

Professor Sir Martin Rees of Cambridge and Professor Peter Meszaros of Pennsylvania State University suggest in the current issue of *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*. The bursts were first discovered 25 years ago. Now the two cosmologists have suggested a mechanism by which two neutron stars coalescing at cosmological distances could turn much of their energy into gamma rays. The mechanism would produce such prodigious amounts of energy that it could explain the power of the gamma ray bursts even at the huge distances involved.

Sound advice

AN EXPERIMENT in which a loud noise was made under water close to Heard Island in the Antarctic and the sound picked up by hydrophones thousands of miles away could be used to detect global warming, Arthur Baggeer and Walter Munk write in *Physics Today*. The experiment was carried out in January 1991 and showed that sound carries so well through the oceans that it could be detected easily half-way around the world. Since the speed of sound in water depends on its temperature, Dr Munk, from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, California, wants to set up a permanent network of sending and receiving stations. He believes it will prove the most sensitive and reliable method of proving whether the climate is warming or not.

Protein pointer

TWO scientific groups have shown that a protein previously believed to be found only in the brains of victims of Alzheimer's disease is also found in healthy people. Studies published in last week's issue of *Nature* and in a forthcoming issue of *Science* show that beta-amyloid protein occurs naturally in all humans, and suggest that Alzheimer's patients may simply produce too much of the protein or are unable to rid themselves of the amounts their cells produce. The findings may lead to better diagnostic tests or to drugs to reduce the excess beta-amyloid. The US Alzheimer's Association said.

Drug money

BRITAIN'S drug industry has called on the government to reverse the decline in science spending to ensure that the future of the industry is secured. In a report published last week, the Association of British Pharmaceutical Companies says that Britain is now bottom of the international league in terms of the proportion of gross national product spent on research. "Any failure on the part of the government to provide sufficient funding for academic research will restrict the growth of one of Britain's very few outstandingly successful industries," said Dr John Griffin, director of the association.

Where did corn on the cob come from?

An long-standing archaeological riddle seems to have been resolved just south of the Aztec heartlands

One of the most significant souvenirs that Columbus brought back from his early voyages was maize or "Indian corn", the only cereal staple in the Americas. Within less than a generation of his encounter with the Aztecs in 1492, maize was being grown in West Africa, and spread rapidly through the Old World.

The origins of maize have always been a mystery, however. A century ago the crop was linked with teosinte, a wild cereal placed within the same Zea genus, and found scattered across the highlands of Mexico and Guatemala.

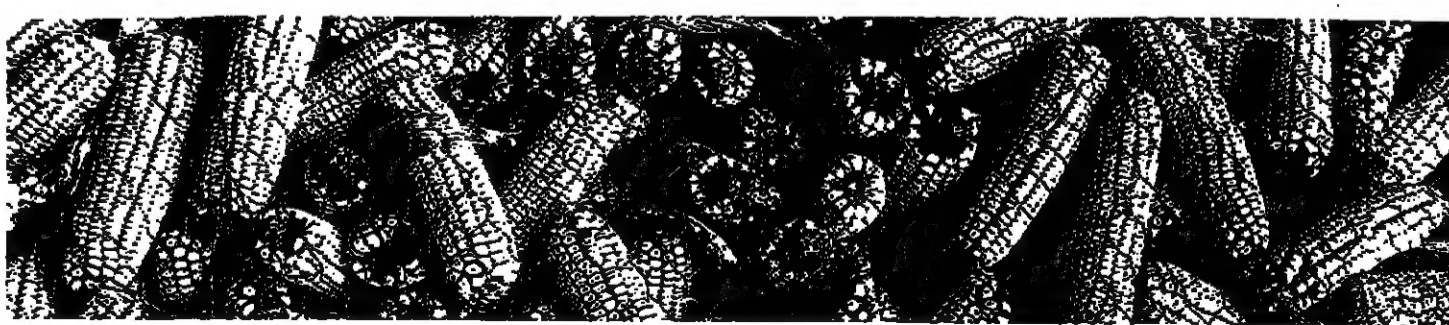
The late Paul Mangelsdorf, who devoted his long career at Harvard to probing the ancestry of corn, would never accept teosinte as the wild precursor, however, because of the physical differences between the species and because he believed the transformation time was too short.

Mangelsdorf believed in a now-extinct "wild corn", and in an historic collaboration the archaeologist Richard S. ("Sooty") MacNeish went into the high, dry valleys of Mexico and apparently found it. A score of tiny chipped and burnt cobs from Coxcatlan Cave in the Tehuacan Valley were dated to around 5,000 BC.

There was opposition, however: George Beadle of the University of Chicago thought the Coxcatlan specimens were more likely to be



The Mexican highlands: the French maize below may have been cultivated from teosinte by this farmer's ancestors 3,000 years ago



early cultivated maize: if so, the ancestor still had to be found.

Corroborative evidence seemed to come from Oaxaca, a lower valley than Tehuacan, where James Schoenewetter identified Zea pollen in archaeological layers of around 8,000 BC, and noted that the area was so arid that the plants must have been tended by humans to have survived. But new radiocarbon dating methods have shown the Tehuacan cobs to have been two thousand years later than had

been thought, around 3,600 BC, and now molecular evidence of a likely ancestry between teosinte and maize has been found.

The last of these achievements is the work of Dr John Doebley, of the University of Minnesota. Summarising his work on the DNA of Zea in the journal *Economic Botany*, he points out that at least four races of teosinte can be identified from northern Mexico south and east to the borders of El Salvador. The best-known of these

Zea mays mexicana, found in the Aztec heartland of the central plateau around Mexico City, is the race studied by Mangelsdorf and rejected as a maize ancestor.

The solution lies just to the south, however, in the upper basin of the Rio Balsas, which drains into the Pacific: there a new race of teosinte, *Z. m. parviglumis*, was recognised by Doebley and Dr Hugh Iltis in 1980 and was shown by DNA testing to be closely related to corn. With the Tehuacan corn now

known to be less than 6,000 years old, but with complex society supported by maize agriculture attested 3,000 years ago in the Gulf Coast region of Mexico, evolution must have been fast.

Farming villages are known even earlier, between 1,500 and 2,000 BC, leaving some two millennia for corn to have emerged as the economic underpinning of ancient Mexican society.

NORMAN HAMMOND

All at sea, but not so you would notice

Construction is to start next year in the United States on the world's largest passenger ship, the *Phoenix World City*. It will carry 5,600 passengers, nearly 13 times the number of guests the London Hilton hotel can accommodate. Each of the 1,800 members of the crew will have his or her own cabin. With a length of 1,262 ft, the ship would stretch from Admiralty Arch half-way to Buckingham Palace and, vertically, could accommodate Nelson's column (with Lord Nelson no doubt protesting vociferously) and still have a few feet to spare. It will exceed the combined tonnage of three of the world's most famous passenger ships, the *Norway*, the *Q&Z*, and the *Sovereign of the Seas*.

Passengers will be able to choose between three 12-storey hotels, each with a distinct style, appearance and position, giving the ship a

downtown feeling. To reassure the hardy voyagers that they really are at sea, the ship will have its own marina, tucked behind giant doors

at the stern, from which four ferries, each capable of holding 400 people, will run short cruises and carry passengers to and from local



City on the water: the *Phoenix World City* will carry 5,600 passengers and a crew of 1,800

ports. The marina will have its own shops, café, palm trees and even a waterfall.

The ship will cost about \$1 billion. Most of this will be spent in the US, in an attempt to revive the shipbuilding and marine industry. Once afloat, the *Phoenix* will attack the cruise market, worth about \$5 billion a year, almost all of which is controlled by non-Americans, and the meetings and conventions market, worth \$50 billion a year, which is mainly land-based.

If the venture succeeds, the World City Foundation, the ship's owners, will be able to inaugurate the maiden voyage in style—in the vessel's 2,000-seat theatre.

FABIAN ACKER

BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax (43664) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (7858683)
9.05 Perfect Strangers Comedy series (i). (Ceefax) (6974138)
9.30 Labour Party Conference 92. Live coverage of the proceedings on the opening day of the Labour party's 91st conference (35409)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (4242003) 10.05 Playdays (s) (9054041) 10.25 Jimbo and the Jet Set (i) (4245190)
10.35 Labour Party Conference 92. Further coverage from Blackpool (8270751) 12.55 Regional News and weather (4766363)
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (75190)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (4378041) 1.50 Going for Gold presented by Henry Kelly (i) (4378041)
2.15 Knots Landing. The last episode of the drama spin-off from the Dallas epic (5837799) 3.05 Pot Black Timeframe. Speed snooker competition, presented by Eamonn Holmes (s) (5359225)
3.30 Cartoon. The Sorcerer's Apprentice, narrated by Vincent Price (5829022) 3.50 Penny Crayon (i) (4165003) 4.05 The New Lassie (i). (Ceefax) (6156645) 4.30 Peter Pan and the Pirates. Cartoon adventures. (Ceefax) (s) (5359225)
4.55 Newsround (4494910) 5.05 Blue Peter. The team visits a fashion show held at St David's School, Chester. (Ceefax) (s) (9632770)
5.35 Neighbours (i). (Ceefax) (s) (910596). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (913)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (683). Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 Eldorado. (Ceefax) (s) (3041)
7.30 Watchdog. Consumer affairs. (Ceefax) (867)



Marital strife: Dennis Waterman and Judy Buxton (8.00pm)

- 8.00 On the Up
CHOICE: Proving that someone must like it, this bland comedy show returns for a third series with Dennis Waterman heading the cast as Tony. It's not specially funny so its appeal depends on whether you still find Waterman sexy, or failing that, an attractive personality. The premise — a self-made millionaire is beset by minor marital problems — does at least bring with it the comforting reminder that money doesn't always bring happiness. And thankfully Sam Kelly and veteran Carry On star Joan Sims are on hand to beef up the humour as Tony's bawdy servants. At one stage in fact they seem to be plotting to steam fry Lady Luck (alias Judy Buxton as Tony's wife Ruth) in her sauna. If only they would actually do this, the series might be able to leap from the banal to the enjoyably ridiculous. (Ceefax) (s) (9461)
8.30 The Velvet Claw: The Rich Man's Tale. The story of the hyena. (Ceefax) (s) (959)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (9190)
9.30 Panorama: Britain's Rural Revolution.
CHOICE: Tonight's programme, originally scheduled for last Monday, reports on plans to pay farmers to stop growing food on parts of their land. The compensation known as "set aside" amounts to around 84 pounds an acre and even the recipients are finding it a very peculiar practice for government to be paying them for not doing something. As Tim Carson puts it: "I'm a farmer. I'm not here to sit watching weeds grow." The prospect of once tended land becoming derelict is a worrying one and there are fears too that farmers could come under pressure from developers. The really silly part is that the result may not be a fall in production (407867)
10.10 Film 92 with Barry Norman. Among the films reviewed are Carry On Columbus, City of Joy and Bitter Moon (319770). Northern Ireland: 29 Live, Wales: Between Ourselves
10.40 Cagney and Lacey. New York policewomen drama series starring Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly (i). (Ceefax) (547119). Northern Ireland: 10.45 Film 92 11.15 Cagney and Lacey
11.30 Carrying On. Magazine series looking at new skills, opportunities and ideas in the world of career training (i) (40916). Wales: 11.25 Film 92 11.55 Carrying On
12.00 Weather (5426962). Northern Ireland (to 12.30): Carrying On

BBC2

- 8.00 Breakfast News (816190)
8.15 The History Man. Bryan McNeer visits Lyddinton Bede House, once the palace of the bishops of Lincoln (i) (2318954)
8.20 Play Better Golf. Peter Allen with advice on playing bunkers and water hazards (i) (738434)
8.50 A Week To Remember (b/w). Pathé newscaps from this week in 1952 (7354686)
9.00 Daytime on Two: how to make a video diary (6050515) 9.10 Id Paris (6070751) 9.25 Christianity in Today's World (701051)
9.45 Storytime (6027062) 10.00 MathsScope (9053312) 10.18 Music Time (9049119) 10.40 Mathsphere (8744515) 11.00 Zig Zag (8231799) 11.22 Thinkabout Science (2784515) 11.35 Mad About Music (2085954) 11.55 Lenses (5894751) 12.10 The Geography Programme (5557916) 12.30 History File (7202567) 12.50 Teaching Today (9879480) 1.20 Pingu (55005428) 1.25 Johnson and Friends (66629409) 1.35 Crystal Tipps and Allstar (7825515) 1.40 Landmarks: Explorers and Encounters (43779119)
2.00 News and Weather (34881409) followed by Storytime (i) (s) (40423732)
2.15 Labour Party Conference 92. Live coverage of the first day's proceedings in Blackpool, presented by Donald MacCormick, Vivian White and Iain MacWhirter. Includes News (Ceefax) and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (89559003)
5.30 Grand Prix. Highlights of yesterday's Portuguese grand prix in Estoril (i) (732)
6.00 The Adams Family (b/w). Classic comedy series based on the characters in the New Yorker magazine cartoons. (Ceefax) (754393)
6.25 DEF II begins with The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. American comedy series about a fast-talking, streetwise youth living in opulent California (842022)



Football crazy: Kevin Allen with news and views (6.50pm)

- 6.50 Standing Room Only. Football magazine series presented by Kevin Allen. This week's edition includes an interview with Denis Law (252867) 7.25 Local Television. Animation series (688206)
7.50 Out of Darkness: Dreaming of Democracy. The series examining current efforts being made to reshape African societies looks at the problems facing Africa. Narrated by Cathy Tyson. (Ceefax) (s) (759225)
8.30 Film: The Other Lover (1985) starring Lindsay Wagner and Jack Scalia. A hand-wringing made-for-television romantic drama about a married publishing executive who has an affair with one of her authors. Directed by Robert Ellis Miller. (Ceefax) (73190)
10.00 Murder Most Horrid: A Determined Woman. Dawn French plays a quantum physicist whose naked ambition and scientific curiosity lead her to continue her research into time travel in her garage after being made redundant by her university. With Jim Broadbent and Caroline Blakiston (i) (s) (86645)
10.30 Newswatch presented by Peter Snow. In a special debate to mark the start of the Labour party conference there is a discussion on the party's relationship with the trades unions, co-hosted by the Fabian Society. The panel will include Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, and Alan Tait, general secretary of the Union of Communications Workers (457157)
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (i) (127664)
11.55 Weather (299190)
12.00 Open University: Warfare and Welfare (68829). Ends at 12.30am

The numbers next to each TV show are the VideoPlus+ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video recorders. The VideoPlus+ handset can be used with most video recorders. The VideoPlus+ handset can be used with most video recorders. The VideoPlus+ handset can be used with most video recorders.

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (5369003)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw. Celebrity game show hosted by Danny Baker. This week's celebs are Sarah Greene, Kate Robbins, Steve Jones and Mike Smith (6963022) 9.55 Thames News headlines (7433751)
10.00 The Place... The Place... Topical discussion series (7707866)
10.40 This Morning. Domestic magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes items on food from the New World; help and advice on personal problems; and ideas with flowers. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (943393)
12.10 Rosie and Jim. Puppet series (i) (5577770)
12.30 Lunchtime News. (Oracle) Weather (2552799) 1.05 Thames News (69867312)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (Oracle) (120935) 1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in an Australian outback town (129206)
2.15 Thames Help. Health and safety issues for women in Europe (i) (144515) 2.45 Families. Soap linking the north of England with Australia (s) (6149454)
3.10 ITN News headlines (4244225) 3.15 Thames News headlines (4243596) 3.20 The Young Doctors. Drama series set in an Australian city hospital (2356130)
3.50 Newsweek. Animation (i) (6394545) 4.00 The Sooty Show. With Matthew Corbett (i) (3153954) 4.25 Beetlejuice. Cartoons (i). (Oracle) (6139848) 4.50 How 2. Facts and fun series introduced by Fred Dineen, Carol Vorderman and Gareth Jones (7954931)
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Holness (9633409)
5.40 Early Evening News. (Oracle) Weather (165119) 5.55 Thames Help (477566)
6.00 Home and Away (i). (Oracle) (799)
6.30 Thames News (751)



Physical and mental agility: a group A finalist (7.00pm)

- 7.00 The Krypton Factor. Gordon Burns hosts the group A final of the brawn and brain competition. With Tony Slattery, Katie Puckridge and Linda Lusardi helping in the memory test. (Oracle) (s) (5409)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (935)
8.00 Strike It Lucky. Quiz game show. The question-master is Michael Barrymore. (Oracle) (s) (4157)
8.30 World in Action: Going Bust. A look at some of the families who took advantage of Mrs Thatcher's enterprise initiative and are now seeing their lives ruined by the recession (3664)
9.00 Soldier, Soldier: Something Old, Something New. Drama series charting the lives and loves of members of the King's Fusiliers. This week, on the eve of the regiment's departure to Hong Kong, Cpl Paddy Garvey and Cpl Nancy Thorpe decide to get married (i) (s) (2429)
10.00 News at Ten. (Oracle) Weather (13799) 10.30 Thames News (805067)
10.40 Film: Robbery Under Arms (1985) starring Sam Neill. Period adventure yarn about two young men who go to Australia to look for their robber father. When they meet up their father introduces them to the notorious bushwhacker captain Stargrave who enlists their help in helping to drive a herd of stock cattle. Directed by Donald Crombie and Ken Hannam (i) (94109295)
12.00am Entertainment UK. Leisure time guide (s) (5018875)
1.40 Sport AM. Highlights of the Sheffield ice hockey tournament (533813)
2.40 Film: Shock (1982) starring Alain Delon and Catherine Deneuve. French thriller about a hired killer who decides to retire and finds himself hunted by his former paymasters. Directed by Robin Davis (723287)
4.30 Harvey Keizer. As Paul Masson featuring Stan Getz and Ritchie Valens (42487)
5.30 ITN Morning News (84184). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Cartoons (15454)
7.00 The Big Breakfast.
CHOICE: In a conscious effort to get away from the indigestible porridge of Channel 4 Daily, the station has come up with a "family try up" from The Word producer Charlie Parsons. The much publicised big names connected with it are Bob Geldof and Paula Yates but, while the former will be seen on pre-recorded interviews with world figures and the latter will be sitting in a boudoir chatting up celebrities, the presenters who really hold the show together are Chris Evans from GLR and Gaby Roslin. Broadcast from a characterful house in East London, the programme is using a radio-style format of phone-ins, competitions and guests plus a few ancient children's series. Today's snippets highlights include Geldof with Australian PM Paul Keating (8.05am), viewers' video diaries (8.30) and Yates with fashion and showbiz stars (8.40) (58041)



Entertainment on a plate: Chris Evans, Paula Yates (7.00am)

- 9.00 You Bet Your Life. The first of a new quiz series, hosted by Bill Cosby, based on the one made famous by Groucho Marx in the 1950s (s) (90848)
9.30 Schools (74585)
12.00 Right to Reply presented by Sheena McDonald (i). (Teletext) (s) (9552)
12.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series (42954)
1.30 Kaboodle. Comedy, adventure and fantasy in a mixture of live action and animation (i) (21206)
2.00 Film: Johnny Eager (1942, b/w) starring Robert Taylor and Lana Turner. Gangster movie about a prisoner on parole who pretends he is going straight while still engaged in nefarious activities. Complications arise when he falls for the daughter of the attorney who sent him to prison. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy (2022)
4.00 The Garden Club. The team visits Durham (i). (Teletext) (664)
4.30 Fifteen to One. The first of a new series of the quick-fire general knowledge knock-out quiz (s) (848)
5.00 Late Late Show. Music and topical chat show from Dublin, hosted by Gay Byrne (s) (5022)
6.00 Streetwise. Drama series about a team of London cycle couriers (111) 6.30 The Wonder Years. American comedy series about growing up in the 1960s, starring Fred Savage (393)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) (663)
8.00 Brookside. Merseyside soap. (Teletext) (s) (2799)
8.30 Evening Shade. Burt Reynolds stars as the local high school football coach in small town America (s) (1206)
9.00 Travellers' Tales: Back to Africa.
CHOICE: In the last of this series of writers' journeys, the Jamaican-born journalist and broadcaster Ferdinand Dennis makes a supposedly dangerous car trip from Kano in Nigeria to Lagos, 600 miles south of it. As it happens, armed with a ready smile and fistfuls of ready cash, he faces nothing more frightening than the prospect of doing without air conditioning in his battered old taxi. Nonetheless the programme is interesting in a quiet way as an essay on a land where ancient cultures and lifestyles contrast uneasily with signs of advancing modernity. The comparison between Abuja, Nigeria's new capital, and Lagos is particularly illuminating. The former, located in the exact geographical centre of Nigeria, is a shining symbol of hope which has yet to be realised. The latter remains the most vibrant city of the country. (Teletext) (3751)
10.00 A Bit of a Do. David Nobbs's comedy drama about the romantic complications between two sets of in-laws. Starring David Jason, Nicola Pagett, Gwen Taylor and Paul Chapman (i). (Teletext) (3138)
11.00 Beyond Belief: Religion on Trial. Has religion served the cause of human rights? Humanist Anne Kelleher argues no, Anthony Schner, QC, disagrees (8577)
12.00 Film: Dust in the Wind (1987). Taiwanese drama following the fortunes of two lovers who move from a poor village to urban squalor. Directed by Hou Hsiao-Hsien (24875). Ends at 2.00am

SATellite

- SKY ONE
Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites
6.00am The DJ Show (605954) 6.40 The Big Breakfast (605954) 6.50 The Big Breakfast (605954) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (605954) 7.10 The Big Breakfast (605954) 7.20 The Big Breakfast (605954) 7.30 The Big Breakfast (605954) 7.40 The Big Breakfast (605954) 7.50 The Big Breakfast (605954) 8.00 The Big Breakfast (605954) 8.10 The Big Breakfast (605954) 8.20 The Big Breakfast (605954) 8.30 The Big Breakfast (605954) 8.40 The Big Breakfast (605954) 8.50 The Big Breakfast (605954) 9.00 The Big Breakfast (605954) 9.10 The Big Breakfast (605954) 9.20 The Big Breakfast (605954) 9.30 The Big Breakfast (605954) 9.40 The Big Breakfast (605954) 9.50 The Big Breakfast (605954) 10.00 The Big Breakfast (605954) 10.10 The Big Breakfast (605954) 10.20 The Big Breakfast (605954) 10.30 The Big Breakfast (605954) 10.40 The Big Breakfast (605954) 10.50 The Big Breakfast (605954) 11.00 The Big Breakfast (605954) 11.10 The Big Breakfast (605954) 11.20 The Big Breakfast (605954) 11.30 The Big Breakfast (605954) 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